Pro-impeachment solons bare pressure

STORY ON PAGE A2

INQUIRER
Hunk with He
Size up the resized
on Sunday, Feb.3

RP still on dirty money blacklist

HONG KONG—A global task force said Friday that it had dashed the hopes of several countries including the Philippines, pleading to be removed from a blacklist of 19 countries accused of allowing money laundering.

The Philippines remained on the blacklist despite an anti-money launder-

RP/A4

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Ground fire hits US warplane north of Clark

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—An airborne US Air Force cargo plane was shot twice from the ground while on a training mission flight around 7 p.m. Thursday.

The attack was the first on an American military aircraft since RP-US military training exercises began in 1999, according to Philippine Air Force (PAF) officials.

A US military official, who asked not to be named, yesterday told the INQUIRER that the MC-130 was flying 2,000 feet above the ground at a speed of 220 knots "up north of Clark."

The plane landed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the PAF Haribon complex of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, the US official said. It was one of seven US planes seen parked at Haribon at noon yesterday.

"The aircraft is all right," the US official said. "There is no significant damage to it."

Lt. Col. Pete Soledad told reporters that the plane bore two holes in its belly. The holes were of a size that could have been made by 7.62-mm bullets, which fit M-14 rifles.

Communist rebels are known to carry such firearms, Soledad said.

But in Manila, Philippine authorities said it was unlikely that members of the New People's Army were behind the attack.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said that at the time it was hit, the plane was flying over the "northeastern part of Luzon," an area "with no known insurgency activity."

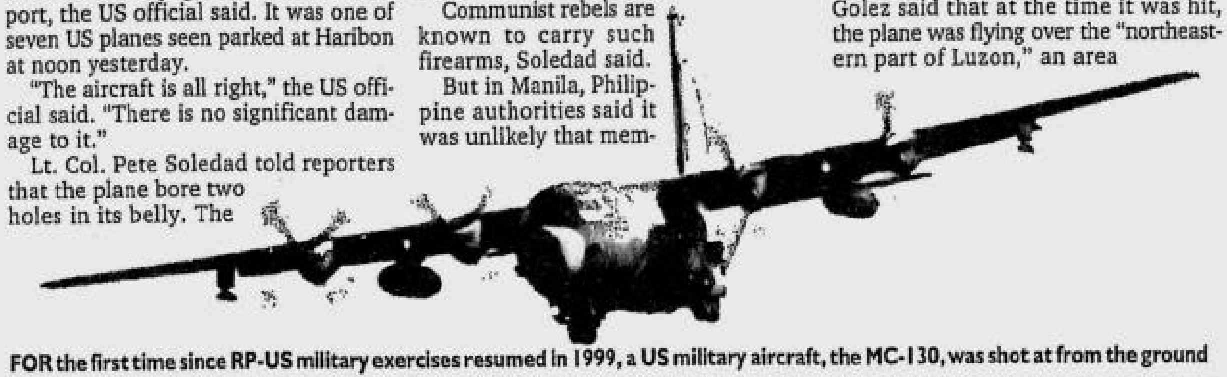
He quoted Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva as saying that it was "improbable that this was caused by insurgents."

"There's some technical discussion," Golez said. "And the technical discussion seems to indicate that it is difficult to intentionally hit that aircraft considering the situation."

Golez also said they were not ruling out the idea that other armed groups were responsible.

"I don't think it's fair to connect this to the NPA without valid reasons," he said at a news briefing in Malacañang. "It's being jointly investigated. We're not ruling out anyone."

GROUND/A16



FOR the first time since RP-US military exercises resumed in 1999, a US military aircraft, the MC-130, was shot at from the ground while on a training mission on Thursday night. FILE PHOTO

Sandigan reverses itself

Forfeiture of Marcos millions recalled

By Volt Contreras
and Donna S. Cueto

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday nullified its ruling in September 2000 that forfeited in favor of the government $627 million in Marcos Swiss deposits held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank.

But the Presidential Commission on Good Government said the new Sandiganbayan decision on the 11-year-old forfeiture case was "not really a setback," believing that the government would still win the case in the Supreme Court.

Setting the forfeiture case "for further proceedings," the anti-graft court maintained that before the money could be turned over to the government, the PCGG must present "legal proof" that it did not belong to the five Swiss foundations under whose names the money was deposited.

Until then, the anti-graft court said the foundations must be presumed owners of the funds.

"As it is now, there is no proof on record that the money in escrow from the Swiss banks deposited in the name of the foundations are really owned by the respondents Marcos" as claimed by the PCGG, the Sandiganbayan said.

The PCGG apparently suffered the

SANDIGAN/A4

HAPPY days are here again, or so it would seem, from what has become a not-unusual scene these days in Zamboanga City where US soldiers are lionized by the locals. DENNIS SABANGAN

Poverty, terrorism are twins, says Gloria

NEW YORK—The world's rich and powerful opened Thursday a five-day meeting under tight security in terror-shaken New York and were told by President Macapagal-Arroyo to harness the global anti-terrorism coalition to fight poverty and stem the spread of extremism.

"Now that our global coalition against terrorism has been successful, we should use this to fight poverty, because terrorism and poverty are twins," Ms Macapagal told the annual World Economic Forum, moved from its home in Davos, Switzerland.

She said there was danger that the coalition would "drift away" after the war was won against terrorism in Afghanistan.

Other members of a panel ranging from a rock star to royalty also delivered a stark warning that the anger of dispossessed young people in the Third World threatened further violence unless the developed powers took responsibility for bridging the divide.

"We have a whole generation now who knows nothing but rage. And that is dangerous because that is the breeding ground for terrorism," Queen Rania of Jordan told the assembled corporate chiefs, government leaders and media executives.

The specter of Sept. 11 was everywhere, from discussions on topics such as "The Root Causes of Conflict" and

POVERTY/A4

Lawyers ask SC to stop RP-US war games

By Michael Lim Ubac
and TJ Burgonio

TWO lawyers yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop the RP-US Balikatan 02-1, saying the military exercise would not only violate the Constitution but also lead to a "shooting war."

In a taxpayer's suit, Arthur D. Lim and Paulino R. Ersando, former president and governor for Western Mindanao, respectively, of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), claimed that the Balikatan was actually a "continuing combat operation" by the Armed Forces of the Philippines against the Abu Sayyaf.

"It has been admitted that the US 'advisers' will accompany Filipino soldiers on patrol in the combat zones," the two men said.

"Also, a base of operation will be in the Sampinit complex, which is in the heartland of the Abu Sayyaf's 'territorial domain' on Basilan island. A shooting war, not just an exercise, is unavoidable," they added.

The Balikatan formally opened Thursday in Zamboanga City. The actual exercise will begin in mid-February, according to military officials.

Lim and Ersando asked the Supreme Court through a petition for certiorari and prohibition to immediately restrain Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, as alter ego of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes from further authorizing the war

LAWYERS/A16

It's a bird; it's a toy; it's RP spy plane; it crashed

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija—They bear the same names as bold movie stars: Rica, Rufa Mae, Assunta, Alessandra and Klaudia.

Yesterday, Assunta bared her wares before an appreciative crowd of media people and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. at the home of the Army's 7th Division here.

But unlike their namesakes, they were the ones who did the "observing."

"They" are the first unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) made by the Philippine Army that will eventually be used against the Abu Sayyaf.

"We wanted names that the soldiers will remember. They'd say, 'Here comes Klaudia.' It's (for) morale-building," said Oscar Mapua, a civilian who helped in the aircraft's development.

Made out of epoxy, aluminum, fiberglass, a grass cutter engine and carrying

IT'S/A16

Baguio judge exposes 'hoodlums in robes'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

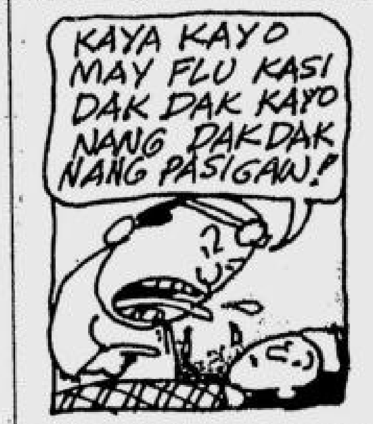
BAGUIO CITY—The legal community is in uproar here over the disclosure of the alleged corruption and immorality in office of three Baguio judges.

And a judge himself made the disclosure.

The accusations of regional trial court Judge Ruben Ayson were contained in a Jan. 25 court order that had nothing to do with the three judges. Which curiosity served to grab the collective attention of the legal profession.

"We don't understand why this had to be reported out in a perfectly ordinary judicial order, when it could have been transmitted formally to the Chief Justice. The order was leaked to other lawyers. The legal profession here is at an

BAGUIO/A16


KAYA KAYO MAY FLU KASI DAK DAK KAYO NANG DAKDAK NANG PASIGAW!

Talk makes HK folk prone to flu

HONG KONG—It is not the hot and sticky weather. It is not even the pollution.

What really makes Hong Kong people prone to flu is the fact that they talk too much and too loudly, according to one of the territory's leading academics.

Prof. Thomas Chan Yan-keung, the

TALK/A16

Second FRONT PAGE

TSK! TSK!
PANGALAWA NA YAN!

Pro-impeachment solons bare pressure

By Christine Avendaño and Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TWENTY congressmen have endorsed the second impeachment bid against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said yesterday even as he revealed efforts to pressure him and his allies against pursuing the complaint.

Zubiri said he would continue to campaign for more endorsements even if he has gotten calls asking him to lay off the bid to keep alive the impeachment move against Desierto.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, who endorsed the first impeachment case against Desierto and co-filed the second one, yesterday claimed that he had been warned by some of his lawyer friends "to be careful" because the Ombudsman's influence was "far-reaching" and to "think over" what he was doing.

"It's a subtle way of intimidation," Zubiri said in a phone interview.

In Baguio City, Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina, a member of the team that prosecuted deposed President Joseph Estrada in the aborted impeachment trial last year, said yesterday the snowballing rate of impeachment cases was distracting Congress from "more serious issues" and was destabilizing for the country.

"As a member of the original 11 impeachment prosecutors, I discourage any impeachment, even Desierto's. It does not give Congress time to work on very, very important (legislation)," Baterina said.

The congressman said he was soliciting the support of the other impeachment prosecutors in the campaign to rid Congress of "superfluous" impeachment complaints.

Zubiri and his allies are apparently aiming to get the signatures of one-third of the House membership, or 73 representatives, for the second complaint against Desierto to go straight to the Senate to prevent the House from voting on the first complaint.

Desierto, who is prosecuting the plunder cases against Estrada before the Sandiganbayan, is facing two impeachment complaints.

The first complaint was filed by lawyer Ernesto Francisco, who accused Desierto of accepting a bribe from a businessman whose bank was being investigated in 1997 by the Ombudsman's office.

This complaint has been stalled at the House committee on justice which earlier voted to dismiss it.

The House suspended deliberations on the justice committee report after several representatives indicated they wanted to question the findings, thus effectively postponing a vote on the report.

Even as the first complaint was hanging fire, a group of congressmen, led by Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and Moreno, filed a second impeachment complaint on the ground that Desierto had purposely bungled the tax credit scam case.

Moreno, also a member of the team that prosecuted Estrada last year, denounced Desierto in a privilege speech last week.

The House is still discussing how to deal with the two impeachment complaints, Baterina said.

He said the infighting over the Desierto case had already divided the House.

"Under the Constitution, once a complaint is filed, no other complaint can be entertained within one year," said Baterina.

Citing the deliberations of the 1986 Constitutional Convention, Baterina said the one-year prescription period for impeachment complaints starts from the date of the filing.

Moreover, the term "filing" meant "the act of filing," he explained.

"However, the committee on rules of the 12th Congress broadened the interpretation of 'filing.' It (now means) the initiation (of the impeachment complaint) by the whole assembly," Baterina said.

Zubiri, who is working with Representatives Robert Ace Barbers and Federico Sandoval II to get the second complaint endorsed, declined to reveal the identities of the more than 20 colleagues who signed lest they become "open to the influence of the other side."***With a report from Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Music, video pirates cost gov't P2B yearly

MUSIC and video piracy costs the government nearly P2 billion in taxes yearly, while the movie and recording industries lose at least P5 billion to the nefarious business.

This was revealed in the first public hearing on intellectual property piracy held yesterday by the Senate committee on public information and mass media chaired by Sen. Vicente Sotto III.

Sotto said the P2 billion could have gone to government coffers had law enforcement officials been doing their jobs of preventing piracy.

Vic del Rosario, a prominent movie producer and member of the Videogram Regulatory Board, said the recording and movie industries were dying because of piracy. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Ani suspends SEC exec in bribery case

By Michael Lim Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday imposed a six-month preventive suspension on a ranking official of the Securities and Exchange Commission for grave misconduct and dishonesty in a case involving the controversial G. Cosmos Philippines Inc. finance firm.

SEC Counsel Rommel G. Oliva was alleged to have accepted a P400,000 bribe from GCP which he allegedly promised to help in a case pending with the SEC.

Desierto said the Ombudsman's Administrative Adjudication Bureau had found strong evidence of guilt against Oliva.

In a six-page order issued on Jan. 25, Desierto said the bribe was given to Oliva on two separate occasions last year.

Oliva first received P350,000 on Sept. 25 and another P50,000 on Oct. 5, the Ombudsman's order, which takes effect immediately, said.

The P400,000 bribe money was deposited in Oliva's account with the Equitable PCI-Bank.

With respect to the criminal aspect of the bribery case, Desierto has ordered Oliva to submit a counter-affidavit or any controverting evidence in 10 days.

Oliva was the securities counsel handling a case to resolve a "cease and desist order" against the GCP which had been charged with violations of the Revised Securities Act.

SEC officials had earlier ordered GCP, owned by Japanese Genta Ogami, to pay P57 million in administrative penalties. Ogami, however, was found to have fled the country.

The GCP's banking arm, the Unitrust Bank, closed down last year following a bank run.

The SEC had found that Ogami-appointed officials had facilitated the release of P18.25 million in unsecured loans to the bank's officers and GCP shareholders.

Ogami himself reportedly obtained up to P13 million in unsecured loans from the bank.

Aside from allegedly accepting a bribe, Oliva allegedly falsely declared under oath in his personal data sheet that there was no pending criminal case against him.

Desierto said the AAB found that he had a pending criminal case docketed as OMB-0-00-0289 with the Ombudsman Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau.

Jinggoy brought to Makati Med

By Volt Contreras

FORMER San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada was yesterday again escorted out of detention and brought to the Makati Medical Center after complaining of heart problems.

It is the fourth time that the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court has allowed the young Estrada to go for emergency medical attention at the MMC since he and his father, deposed ex-president Joseph Estrada, were arrested in April last year on plunder charges.

The special division hearing the Estrada plunder case immediately granted an urgent manifestation filed by Jinggoy's lawyers asking for his transfer to the MMC yesterday afternoon.

The manifestation claimed that Jinggoy has been suffering from "recurring chest pain and has been feeling very weak" since Thursday night.

In a phone interview, Dr. Lorenzo Jocson, the Estrada family physician, said the convoy that took Jinggoy from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, where the Estrada father and son are detained, reached the MMC shortly after past 7 p.m. last night.

Jocson said the trip to the MMC was necessary for Jinggoy's condition to be monitored better.

Tokyo court finds Pinay guilty of killing hubby

TOKYO—A Japanese court Friday sentenced a former bar hostess from the Philippines and a Japanese woman to 15 and 12 years in prison respectively for murdering their husbands for insurance money.

Analie Sato Kawamura, 36, was convicted of murder and fraud charges at the Saitama District Court, north of Tokyo, a court spokesperson said. Prosecutors had demanded 15 years.

Kawamura was found guilty of conspiring with Shigeru Yagi—a 52-year-old moneylender who owned the bar where she worked—to kill husband Shuichi Sato, 45, in 1995, and Akira Morita, 61, in 1999 to get payouts on life insurance policies.

The ruling said Yagi, Analie Sato Kawamura, and Takako Morita, a Japanese woman who worked at a Saitama restaurant, murdered Sato in June 1995 by giving him bread laced with monkshood, a herb containing toxins in its roots.

Kawamura was nominally paid $2.2 million in insurance money, but Yagi reportedly pocketed most of it.

Morita, was sentenced to 12 years in prison at the same court.

The two women were also found guilty of murdering Akira Morita, then married to the Japanese woman, by inducing him to drink strong liquor and take numerous tablets of cold medicine for months until he suffered immune deficiency and died in May 1999.

While recognizing Yagi masterminded the crime, presiding judge Kaoru Kanayama ruled the women were equally guilty because Morita "died of the side-effects of long-term intake of the drug," Jiji Press news agency said.

Kyodo News agency quoted the judge as saying: "It is a systematic and very anti-social crime which abused the insurance system."

Yagi, who denies the charges, is on trial separately and a verdict has yet to be reached. *AFP*

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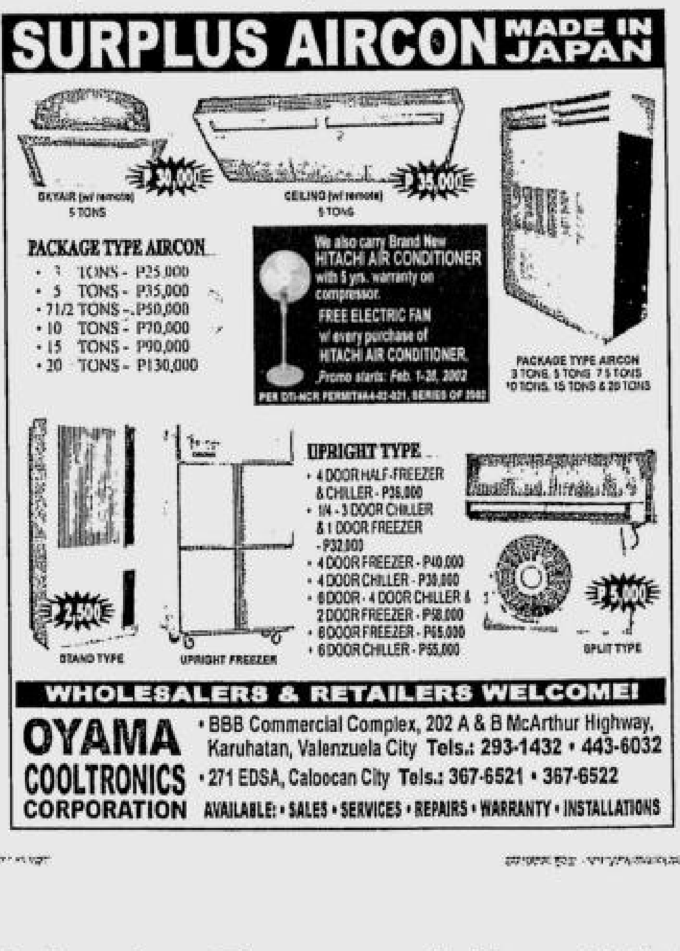
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5 Abus slain; Gracia sighting reported

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Five members of the Abu Sayyaf were slain by Philippine Marines in Basilan yesterday, even as the military reported the sighting by troops last week of two women on horseback, one of whom was white and may have been Gracia Burnham.

Burnham, her husband Martin and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap have been held by the al-Qaida-linked rebels for eight months and are the object of joint military operations by the Philippines and the United States.

The five slain Abu Sayyaf gunmen were believed to have been followers of Abu Sabaya, one of the group's leaders who is reportedly sick and has sent surrender feelers to the military.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief, said the five Abu members were slain when their group engaged elements of the 5th Marine Battalion Landing Team in a firefight in Barangay Laspuler, Maluso, Basilan, at 7:30 a.m. yesterday.

Cimatu said the government troops were not able to retrieve the bodies of the bandits, but they recovered "five high-powered firearms, including ammunition, bandoleers and other belongings."

"There were no casualties on the government side," he added.

Capt. Rommel Pagayon, intelligence officer of the Army's 1st Scout Ranger Battalion based in Basilan, said that shortly before the encounter on Jan. 23 between government troops and the Abu Sayyaf in Tuburan town, the soldiers saw two women riding on a horse.

"One of them was white. When the firing started, they got off the horse and ran, but they ran toward the Abu Sayyaf," Pagayon told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Pagayon said he could not confirm if one of the women was Gracia Burnham, only that she was a white woman.

"All I was told was she was white. You know white women, they are different in color from our women," he said.

During that encounter, the military reportedly killed two bandits, while three soldiers were wounded.

Two days later, Pagayon said, soldiers engaged the same group anew in the vicinity of Mt. Matanal, where four scout rangers were wounded.

On Wednesday, Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said local villagers had sighted Martin Burnham on Jan. 19 walking with the Abu Sayyaf.

Officials said that according to intelligence reports, the Abu Sayyaf had split into two groups after the Jan. 23 clash.

Sabaya, once the high-profile spokesperson of the Abu Sayyaf, has reportedly sent surrender feelers to the military.

Maj. Noel Detoyato, Southcom spokesperson, said Sabaya was very weak from a lingering illness and could hardly command his men.

"We have not personally heard from him, but that was the report we got. He wants to surrender," Detoyato said.

Cimatu said that because of Sabaya's illness, he has entrusted the American hostages, the Burnhams, to his relatives in Maluso town in Basilan. ***With reports from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau, AFP and Reuters***

CAB allows air carriers to raise domestic fares

PHILIPPINE air carriers have won regulatory approval to raise passenger fares on domestic flights by 10 percent, the Civil Aeronautics Board said yesterday.

"We arrived at a decision granting to the air carriers their petition for a 10-percent increase as we gave consideration to the undoubtedly rising cost of maintaining and operating air carriers," said the board's deputy executive director, Carmelo Arcilla.

The higher fares will take effect 15 days after the board's resolution is published in major newspapers on Monday, "so that the riding public may know," Arcilla said.

Cargo rates were unchanged.

Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific Airways and Air Philippines sought permission to raise fares last year, citing rising maintenance costs and insurance premiums after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. *AFP*

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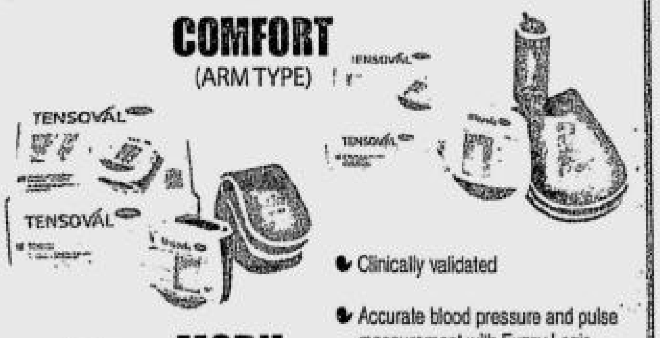

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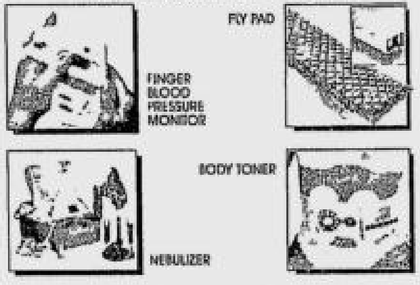

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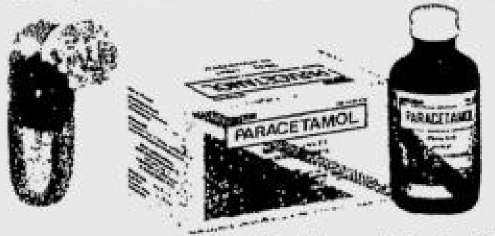

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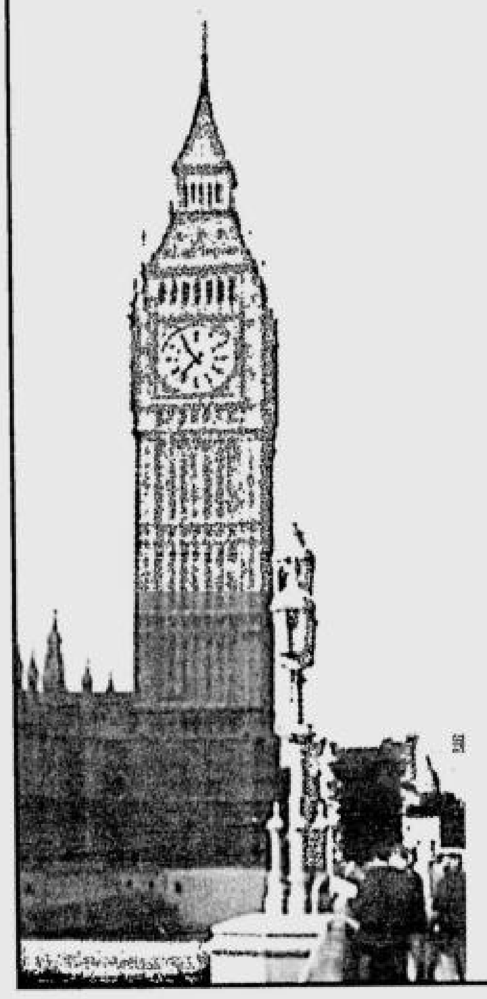

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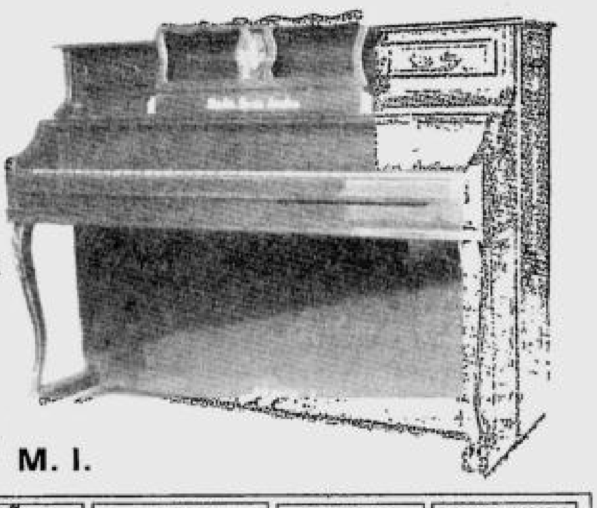

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Sandigan reverses itself on Marcos millions

From page A1

setback on a mere technicality.

The court said the PCGG failed to present "authenticated translations" of the rulings handed down by the Swiss Federal Supreme Court declaring that the money belonged to the Marcoses and that much of it was of "illegal provenance."

The court said the PCGG merely submitted "simple photocopies" of the translations as proof that the Swiss deposits belonged to the Marcoses.

"The authentication of the decisions in an official language was of extreme importance because the decisions involved were the only evidence to show that the $360 million found in the various accounts in the Swiss banks belonged to Ferdinand Marcos and/or Imelda Marcos and not to the foundations in whose names the accounts were recorded," the Sandiganbayan said.

Without the decisions of the Swiss high court "properly presented none of the significant bases for forfeiture under Republic Act 1379 would be present," the anti-graft court said.

PCGG chair Haydee Yorac said that the government had the evidence against the Marcoses, and the reversal of the anti-graft court just hinged on a "very narrow technical matter."

Delay

"This is not really a setback because we have proof. But it delays matters again," she said.

Yorac explained that the PCGG would confer with the Office of the Solicitor General on their next move—whether to bring this up to the Supreme Court and question the Sandiganbayan's decision, or just submit the authenticated translations of the Swiss Supreme Court decisions to the anti-graft court.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo is still out-of-town and is expected to be back next week.

Francis Garchitorena, presiding justice and 1st division chair, who penned the resolution, said he reversed his stand on the case "with some discomfort and . . . with a heavy dose of embarrassment."

He described as "incorrect" the position he took in the resolution his division issued on Sept. 19, 2000. The resolution declared that the money was "unlawfully acquired" by Marcos and wife Imelda during his 20-year regime.

In the ruling, the Sandiganbayan said that the Swiss accounts represented ill-gotten wealth because the money far exceeded the combined salaries of the Marcos spouses from 1966 to 1986.

Based on court records, the Marcoses admitted that as president the late dictator had received a salary of only P60,000 a year from 1966 to 1976, P100,000 a year from 1977 to 1984 and P110,000 for 1985, or a total of P1.57 million.

Imelda, who served as minister of human settlements, received a total of P718,750 from June 1976 to 1985. From January to February 1986, the couple was authorized to receive a total of P30,833, according to the Sandiganbayan.

Their combined salaries from 1966 to February 1986 therefore amounted to P2,319,583, or only $304,372, based on the exchange rate in 1986, the anti-graft court said.

'Special division'

Yesterday's ruling had to be voted on by a "special division" of five justices, composed of the three 1st division justices and two others from other divisions.

Under Sandiganbayan rules, a special division is convened when a decision of a court, in this case the 1st division, failed to get a unanimous vote.

Yesterday's resolution had Associate Justices Nicodemo Ferrer and Gregorio Ong concurring with Garchitorina in reversing the September 2000 ruling.

Associate Justices Catalino Castañeda and Francisco Villaruz dissented.

Castañeda and Ong are Garchitorena's members in the 1st division, while Ferrer is from the 4th division and Villaruz from the 5th. It was Castañeda who wrote the September 2000 ruling.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said that the PCGG was expecting the ruling. He did not elaborate. Sources said that there was already word as early as late last year that the Sandiganbayan would reverse its Sept. 19, 2000 decision.

Disturbed

"I'm disturbed by this decision but I'm not worried about the eventual outcome of this case," Carranza said.

"Essentially, the court says that the decisions of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court were not authenticated, that's why there is no proof that the funds of the Swiss foundations belong to the Marcoses. But at the same time, the court took into account the finding of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court, which says that the funds are owned by the Marcoses and that they are of illegal provenance," he said.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who filed the forfeiture petition in 1991, said it would be "very difficult for a person not to see evidence that is staring at him straight in the face."

"These documents are higher than the waist of Garchitorena," he said, referring to the documentary evidence submitted by the government lawyers in the forfeiture case.

He cited exhibits U-1 to U-168, and exhibits V-1 to V-30-F, which, he said, clearly established that the Swiss foundations mentioned, all 15 of them, were set up and "collapsed" by the Marcoses from 1967 to 1989.

He said this was the reason the Swiss court had ordered the transfer of the funds in an escrow account of the PNB.

The accounts were opened by Marcos as Wiliam Saunders and Imelda as Jane Ryan.

On the absence of official translation of Swiss Supreme Court decisions, Chavez said that the Sandiganbayan could have compelled the OSG to submit these documents early on.

Unthinkable

"At the end of this case, it will be a sad footnote that after 11 years of litigation by the Sandiganbayan, the Marcoses eventually succeeded in convincing Garchitorena," Chavez said.

"Garchitorena has just done the unthinkable. He has by 11 pages of his resolution completely destroyed more than a decade of hard work put in by a lot of government people to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses," he said.

Chavez called on Garchitorena to resign. He said Garchitorena's latest decision was "not characteristic of his person."

"And considering the disciplinary action imposed upon him by the Supreme Court, *mukhang inaasar niya lang ang* (he was just tweeting) Supreme Court knowing that eventually the issue will be finally resolved by the high court," Chavez said.

Poverty, terrorism are twins, says Gloria

From page A1

"Restoring Global Confidence" to the more than 4,000 police, US Secret Service agents and private security cordoning off a large section of the midtown Manhattan neighborhood surrounding the hotel.

Former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, given a standing ovation at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, said New York had "absorbed" the attacks that killed almost 3,000 people, but "is still in pain, still in mourning and still in some ways in shock."

Outside, streets were barricaded against traffic and pedestrians slowed to a crawl on sidewalks packed with heavily armed police and plainclothes security agents.

Security inside the meeting, held just 5 km from Ground Zero where dump trucks still haul away the rubble of the World Trade Center's twin towers, was intense.

US President George W. Bush stayed away from the forum, making Secretary of State Colin Powell and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill the highest-ranking US government representatives.

Irish rock star Bono brought the voice of the anti-globalization movement inside the conference, demanding more determined action to fight inequality and AIDS.

"The protesters outside, the vast majority, are passionate about the world . . . What they bring to this debate is urgency, because there is an emergency in the world," he said.

Demonstrators gather

About 1,000 demonstrators, including AFL-CIO president John Sweeney, rallied outside Gap Inc.'s flagship store on Fifth Avenue, accusing the large apparel retailer of running "sweatshops" in developing countries with low wages and poor working conditions.

Violence at the World Trade Organization summit in 1999 brought Seattle to a standstill. Last year, Italian police shot and killed a demonstrator at the G-8 Summit in Genoa, and there were also clashes in Davos outside the last Forum.

The future of the global economy was high on the agenda at the meeting, four months after the attacks that dented consumer confidence and worsened a US economic slide.

Participants on the first day of a five-day conference of some 2,700 delegates, expressed cautious optimism that the bruised world economy could rebuild at the end of the year, fueled by a rebound in the United States.

Story of the world

"I believe we will see a significant recovery in the United States in the second half of the year and this will pull the rest of the world with it," said Jacob Frenkel, president of Merrill Lynch International and a former governor of the Bank of Israel.

"The story of the world this year will be the story of the United States. It is the engine of the world," he said.

Economic experts said there were indications that the US recession that started last March was ending—or was already over—but sluggish growth persisted elsewhere in the world.

Earlier, Ms Macapagal called on American investors to channel their resources and invest in the Philippines, declaring that "where bigger and richer economies failed, ours has moved forward."

"This is a good time to expand our trade and investment relations," she said in a speech before the American business leaders attending the "Investment Forum" at the Regis Hotel here.

She said the government, under her stewardship, "has gone a long way to bringing our country back on the radar screens of the world."

At the hotel, she witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Clark Development Corp., Clark International Airport Corp. and the Garsol Management Innovators Inc. (GMMI).

GMMI specializes in product marketing and management consultancy services in the aviation industry. *Reuters*

RP still on dirty money blacklist

From page A1

ing law rushed last year and a last-minute lobbying by Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) also announced that the first phase of self-assessment exercises for its members to comply with a set of eight special recommendations to choke off terrorist funding would be completed by June.

"The FATF welcomed the additional progress made by a number of the 19 jurisdictions on the list," said Clarie Lo, current president of the FATF.

But she added the progress had not been enough for them to be removed from the list during three days of talks in Hong Kong.

Despite the efforts of Pangilinan requesting the taskforce to fast-track his country's case because its economic recovery was endangered by being on the blacklist, the FATF turned down his request.

The Philippines swiftly passed a law in September to curb money-laundering after the FATF—the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's watchdog on money matters—threatened to impose economic sanctions unless it outlawed the trafficking of dirty money.

"The FATF noted that the Philippines had enacted the anti-terrorist act in September 2001 . . . however there are still some deficiencies that need to be remedied before we can consider any form of delisting," Lo said.

The task force had been especially pleased with progress made in Hungary, and St. Kitts and Nevis which have passed special laws to close loopholes allowing money-laundering, said Lo, Hong Kong's narcotic commissioner.

They would be "asked to submit implementation plans to enable the FATF to evaluate the actual implementation of the legislative changes."

But several other countries on the list of "non-cooperative countries and territories" including the tiny central Pacific state Nauru and Philippines, needed to make a greater effort.

Lo said that in the case of Nauru: "Despite the enactment of new legislation last December 2001, Nauru has not adequately addressed the deficiencies found in the process of licensing, regulation and supervision of its banking sector.

"FATF members will therefore continue to apply counter measures against this jurisdiction."

Sanctions

In December, the Paris-based FATF agreed for the first time in its 12-year history to take the blacklist a step further and institute "counter measures" against Nauru.

Nauru operates as an offshore tax haven and stands accused of laundering around $70 billion of Russian mafia money.

Under the sanctions, the world's banks are required to stringently monitor all transactions with Nauru and warn clients that it is deemed to be a money-laundering haven.

The FATF has asked the world's banks and financial institutions to pay particular attention to any transactions with banks in those 19 listed non-cooperative countries.

Currently those countries listed as "non-cooperative" are the Cook Islands, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Grenada, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Lebanon, the Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, the Philippines, Russia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Ukraine.

Representatives from 56 jurisdictions and 16 international organizations participated in the special forum talks to review and draw up guidelines for financial institutions to stem the flow of funds to terrorist organizations.

The closed-door meeting was the first since the FATF adopted an action plan to combat terrorist financing in an extraordinary plenary meeting held in Washington in October.

The FATF's 29 members include most of the world's developed countries, as well as the European Commission and the Gulf Co-operation Council *AFP*

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INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) hereby invites offers to purchase by way of sealed bids on the following vehicles:

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I unit Nissan Frontier 4x4 Pick-up, 4 cyl., Diesel 3.2 cc M/T, w/ Camper Shell/color keyed Front bumpers/bull bar/ fog lamps/mags/stereo Date of purchase - Sept. 99	P601,200.00

A bidder's bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's cheque payable to PhilHealth will be required of all prospective bidders

The vehicles may be inspected at the Parking Area of the Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City on February 21-22, 2002. All vehicles are sold on an "as is basis". The committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted. Last day for submission of sealed bids is February 25, 2002 while opening of sealed bids shall be on February 26, 2002.

Inquiries maybe addressed to the Disposal Committee Secretariat c/o Mr. Joseph O. Vergara or Ms. Cora C. Jaime at Tel. 637-5645/637-9999 loc. 1504/1520/1503.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO N. DALMA, JR.
Chairman, Vehicle Disposal Committee

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

PHYSICAL RESOURCES BIDDING COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY & BID

The **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM** invites all interested contractors to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery for the proposed upgrading and renovation of Information Technology Services Group (ITSG) office at Cores B and C, Level 2, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.

Interested bidders with Philippine Contractors Accreditation (PCAB) license of "A" for General building and classification of at least Medium "B" for "Building" may secure standard pre-qualification forms from the Office of the Manager, Materials Management Department (MMD) during office hours at Level 1, Core B, GSIS Headquarters Bldg., Financial Center, Pasay City with Tel. Nos. 891-61-61 Loc. 4724 and 4720 or at 891-62-95 and 551-18-66, upon submission of a Letter of Interest. Pre-qualification documents must be returned, duly accomplished, to the same office not later than February 8, 2002.

Pre-qualified bidders shall be informed by mail or fax message of pre-bid conferences and bid schedules. All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bidding and award shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulation of PD 1594, as amended in May 24, and July 5, 2000.

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(Sgd.) PRISCILLA M. RABINA
Chairman
Physical Resources Bidding Committee

Inquirer-Jan 19, 26 & Feb 2, 2002

Department of Agrarian Reform
Adjudication Board (DARAB)
Annex Bldg., DAR Central Office Cmpd., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a Decision in **DARAB Case No. 9123** (Reg. Case No. IV-La-0452-95) entitled **Jose B. Gaynilo, Lourdes B. Gaynilo, Corazon Vda. de Gaynilo** and **Raymund P. Gaynilo** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on February 7, 2002.

Counsels and parties to this case particularly **Corazon Vda de. Gaynilo** and **Raymund P. Gaynilo** whose last known address was **Burgos St., Cabuyao, Laguna** are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of the posting of this notice, without any Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

January 28, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
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- Holy Mass at 5:00 P.M. on February 9, 2002 at CSA Grade School Prayer Room.
- Election of Alumni Board of Directors for 2002 - 2004 term will follow right after the Mass on February 9, 2002 at the CSA Kinder - Prep Covered Court.
- **Alumni Homecoming Party at 6:00 P.M. on February 9, 2002 at CSA Kinder-Prep Covered Court.**

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DOH starts house-to-house drive vs polio

By Blanche S. Rivera

SOME 55,000 health workers and volunteers will start going from house to house today in the Department of Health campaign to wipe out the mutant polio virus that has surfaced in the country.

The house-to-house campaign is aimed at ensuring that all children aged five years old and under are immunized.

The DOH has distributed 14.5 million doses of the anti-polio vaccine to health centers nationwide for the two-phase drive, which takes place this month and in March.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said yesterday he is "100 percent confident" the DOH will be able to wipe out the polio virus that has reemerged in the country.

The Philippines had been declared one of the 36 polio-free countries in the Western Pacific region by the World Health Organization, but three cases of polio resurfaced last year and in 2000.

"The virus had mutated due to the failure to maintain a high routine infant vaccination," Dayrit said in a statement yesterday.

The new polio cases hit a 14-month-old, a three-year-old and an eight-year-old in Laguna, Cagayan de Oro City and Cavite.

All three children, who were exhibiting signs of paralysis, had been immunized against polio, but they may not have completed the two rounds of vaccination, Dayrit said.

The polio that afflicted the three children was of a different strain, according to the WHO, and may have resulted from a weak or incomplete immunization.

"We cannot afford to let this virus mutate, that's why we're pulling out all the stops to make this campaign succeed," Dayrit said.

The WHO has donated $1.6 million for the anti-polio drive, while the DOH has prepared a P200-million budget for the house-to-house campaign.

The first stage of the drive that starts today will last until Friday, and the DOH workers and volunteers will be back next month to give the second dose.

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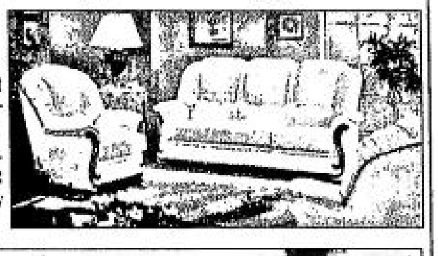
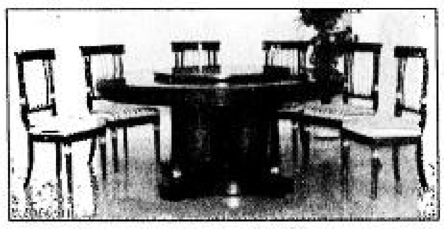
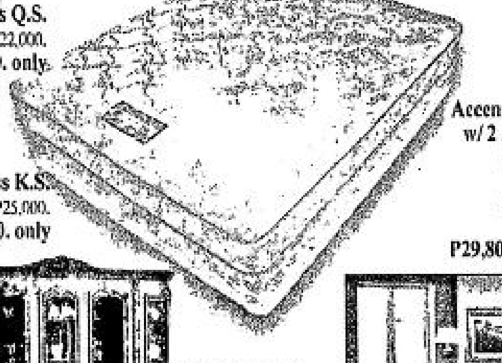
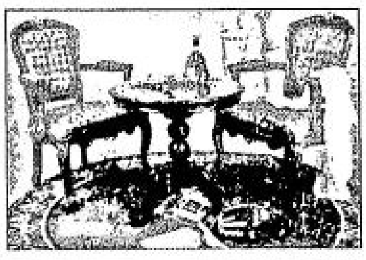
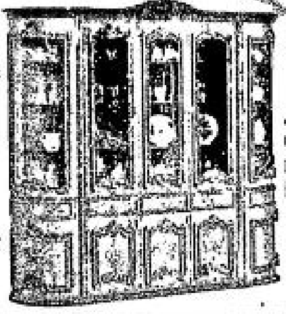

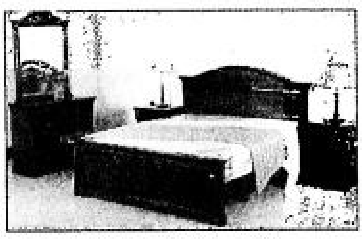

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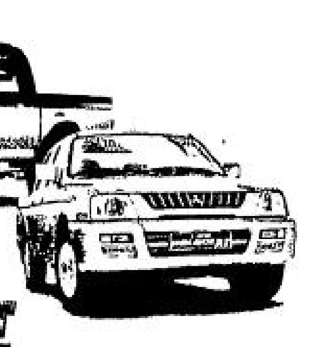

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Deadly virus

EDITORIAL

THE ECONOMY posted a 3.4 percent gross domestic product growth in 2001, surpassing the 3 percent growth forecast by private sector economists and the government's target of 3.3 percent.

The fact that the economy grew at all despite turbulent political events last year (for example the May 1 rebellion) and the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States (which aggravated the global economic slowdown) has made many sectors "pleasantly surprised." Government economists described the economic performance—albeit not robust by any standard—as a sign of the resilience of the economy and predicted the GDP growth rate to accelerate to between 4 and 4.5 percent this year.

But before we get carried away by this small economic expansion, we would do well to examine in what sectors the growth took place and how we fared relative to other economies.

The prospects for 2002 are set against the background of signs of economic recovery in the United States and Europe, and the emergence of a more buoyant economic mood that has put behind us the catastrophic effects of the terrorist attacks in the United States. Business groups in the Philippines have manifested confidence in the economic recovery, and they reflect the optimistic mood in the securities market and investment quarters.

The growth in GDP was better than the International Monetary Fund's projection of 3.2 percent and the Asian Development Bank's 3 percent. The strong performers in the Philippine economy were agriculture and fisheries, which registered a 3.9 percent growth in 2001 from 3.3 percent in 2000. But luck played a large part in that growth. We had good weather, and increased inputs in the agricultural sector, mainly certified seed selection and repair of irrigation facilities. Agriculture accounts for 20 percent of the domestic economy.

The services sector, which makes up 42 percent of the economy, was another top performer, with 4.3 percent, a slight slowing down from the 4.4 percent growth in 2000.

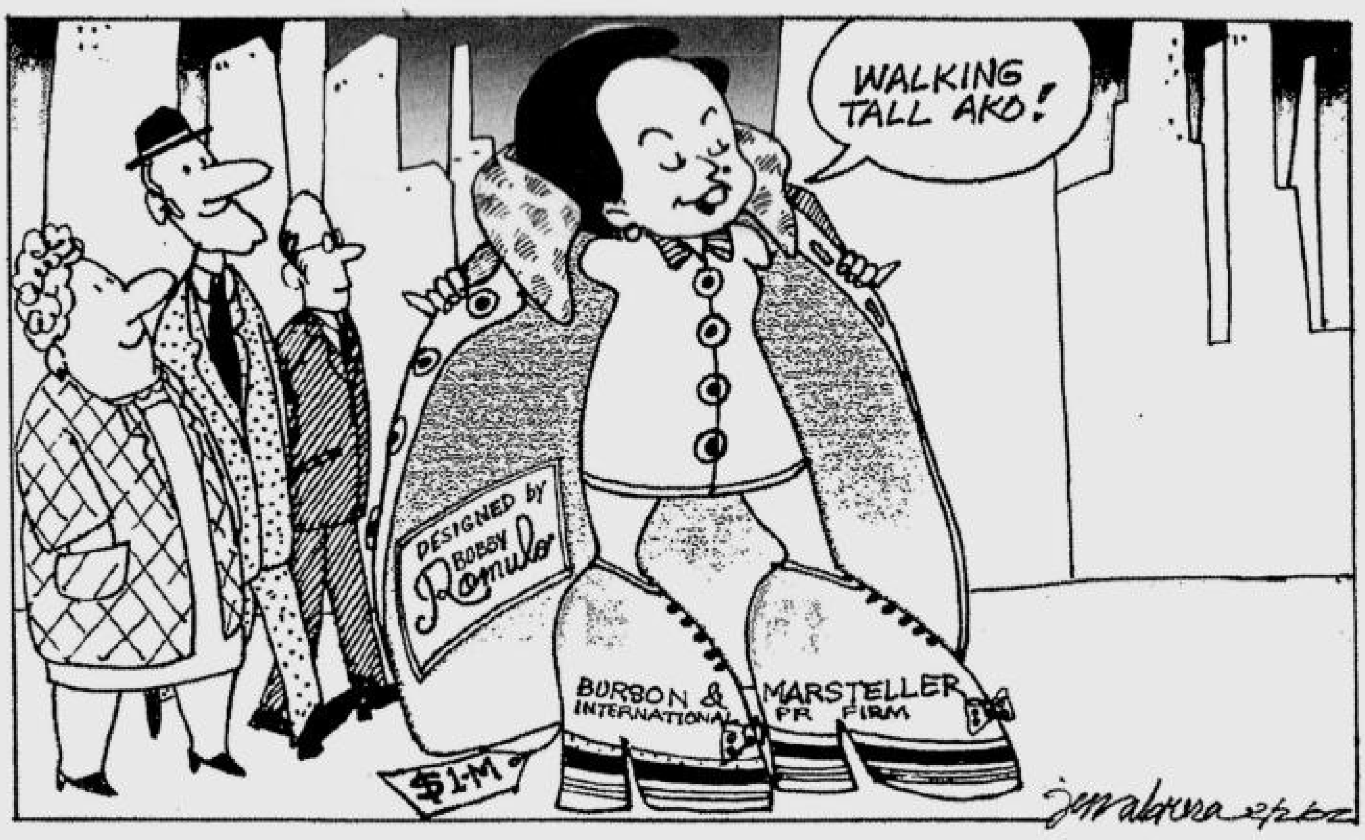
Industry and manufacturing were the hardest hit sectors—with industry posting 1.9 percent, manufacturing 2.2 percent and utilities 3.8 percent. The market for high-tech exports also shrank, following the Sept. 11 attacks. But the drop in exports, mainly of electronics products, was compensated by strong domestic demand upon which the government has placed an accent.

In the Southeast Asian region, the Philippine economy performed better than Singapore's which contracted by 2.2 percent in 2001. However, Indonesia had a slightly better growth than ours, with 3.5 percent. Singapore's recession reflects an economy that is driven by exports mainly to the rich countries, and its vulnerability to the downturn in the advanced economies.

Recovery in the United States and Europe, which are the main destinations of our exports, can only boost Philippine economic expansion. But even with all the signs pointing to a continuing recovery this year, we are not yet out of the woods. Political stability remains uncertain; the government has yet to establish full political control and faces challenges from political adversaries and from rebel groups like the Abu Sayyaf, the New People's Army and lawless gangs in Metro Manila.

The biggest obstacle to a sustained take-off of the economy lies in complacency. In the months following the 1997 Asian financial crisis, we were among the least devastated economies in the region where growth contraction was the rule. True, the financial reforms of the Ramos era helped absorb the shocks of the Asian crisis, but we did not take advantage of the reforms during the Estrada administration. The political crisis of the Estrada years shattered confidence in the government and the economy, but our worst enemy was smugness resting on the belief that we were emerging from the Asian crisis less wounded than most other economies in the region. We were not shocked enough by the crisis to drive the country to take vigorous measures for recovery and to achieve a political con-sensus.

The current optimistic economic outlook, especially in the government, carries the virus of complacency. It ignores the fact that there is neither political nor economic consensus over a national direction. Conflicts in these areas can easily wipe out the modest economic gains of 2001.



Delay is the best defense

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

NOW the Estrada lawyers are protesting the creation of a special division in the Sandiganbayan to try their client. Earlier, they had asked for the disqualification of Chair Anacleto Badoy and Justice Teresita de Castro of the Third Division on the ground of bias against Erap. Now they are questioning the special division as violative of the equal protection clause.

Under the Bill of Rights, persons or things similarly situated should be similarly treated both as to rights conferred and liabilities imposed. They say that while a special division has been created to try Erap, no similar action has been taken to expedite the long pending Marcos cases. They claim that the disparity is intended to favor the Marcoses and discriminate against Estrada.

The trials of the Marcos cases have indeed been inordinately delayed, but it is not exactly true that Estrada and the Marcoses are similarly situated. This may be correct insofar as they are facing charges before the Sandiganbayan of betrayal of the public trust. But the similarity ends there.

Estrada is being prosecuted for, among other offenses, the heinous crime of plunder, which is punishable with *reclusion perpetua* to death. The Marcoses are also charged with having stolen more than P50 million of public funds, but they cannot be prosecuted under the Plunder Law. This was approved only on July 12, 1991, after the commission of their alleged crimes, and so would be prohibited as an *ex post facto* law if applied to them.

While protesting the special division, Estrada's lawyers disregard the fact that he is being accorded unusual privileges not allowed other persons also facing prosecution for plunder.

From the very start, Estrada was assigned comfortable quarters in Laguna and even honored with a personal visit from the new President. When he complained about his accommodations, the government again leaned over backward and transferred him to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Unlike other detention prisoners similarly situated, he is allowed extraordinary amenities, like long visits from relatives and friends, round-the-clock hospital attention, and catered meals.

It may be argued that, as a former president, Erap is in a class by himself and so is entitled to better treatment than other detainees. This may be conceded provided the administration does not go overboard in trying to please him. The Sandiganbayan acted correctly in denying him permission to go abroad for untenable medical reasons. His successful cataract operation by our own doctors proved he should not have belittled their competence.

But although Erap may deserve some liberties because of his quondam if discredited status, the grant of similar courtesies to his son Jinggoy, who is also accused in the plunder case, cannot be justified. Jinggoy is not a former president but only an ex-municipal mayor. The exceptional leniency allowed his father is not automatically available to him owing alone to their relationship.

Estrada's lawyers also represent Jinggoy, but they have not been heard to defend his being treated like his father. While quick to invoke the equal protection clause for the father, they would rather not talk about it as it applies to the son. As an ordinary person, Jinggoy should be treated like the other ordinary persons also charged with plunder. These are the persons who can complain of discrimination for not being allowed to share the unwarranted privileges Erap's son enjoys.

The real purpose of Erap's counsel is, obviously, to throw another roadblock at his trial and further prolong it. They have become proficient with this habitual but often baseless tactic. Peter Wallace, that perceptive observer of the current scene, wonders why they are systematically obstructing the proceedings when they are so sure, or so they say, that their client will be acquitted. Estrada himself says he wants the trial concluded soon, but his lawyers have other plans: Last week they reiterated their motion to disqualify Justice De Castro.

Regarding the Marcos cases, their activation after their courageous hibernation has long become overdue. I suggest that the Supreme Court create another special division in the Sandiganbayan to dispose of them as quickly as possible. My reason is not the inapplicable equal protection clause but the imperative need to categorically rule at last on the accountabilities of the Marcos family. In temporizing these many years on this crucial matter, the courts have in effect penalized the accused if they are innocent and exonerated them if they are guilty.

And still on the subject of delay, what's the latest development on the Mark Jimenez extradition proceedings begun on June 18, 1999? Even as the US government is vigorously prosecuting Atong Ang as an unwelcome alien, we in the Philippines seem to be coddling the seemingly immune congressman by sitting on his case. There is no more doubt that in this jurisdiction, delay is the best defense.

Fighting City Hall

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

CONVENTIONAL wisdom says you can't fight City Hall. Our times have long compelled its trade-in for a higher wisdom. The reason lies in wisdom's own root word: *vide*, to see.

Anyone who has ever seen a forest—never mind if it was only in pictures—would not think twice about preferring it to the traffic, garbage, pathetic sidewalks, stinking gutters and universal overcrowding of the Manilan's daily lot. Longing for their antidote is not whimsy but a deep need of the human psyche. Let us say it again: nature brings it back to scale and harmony, if only for a moment, with the world as the Creator intended.

Flowers and trellised vines in squatter warrens beside miasmic creeks make the poor equals of the rich in manicured green enclaves. In a monster city, green spaces are a human need as aching as water, light and air. Without it, madness and mindless violence are just a carbon monoxide-laced breath away.

One therefore wonders about Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. Against the outcry of scholars and environmentalists, he has razed history in the old Jai-alai building, turned the Metropolitan Theater periphery into a graceless (but lucrative) parking complex and is poised to build a city college (even more lucrative, eh Mayor?) in the Mehan Gardens. Now he is homing into the Arroceros mini-forest park behind it.

Despite Calle Arroceros' toothsome bit of history (its name comes from *arroz*, rice from Laguna's lakeside towns once unloaded from barges on the Pasig), Manila motorists avoid this narrow street's molasses-like traffic under LRT rails. To the pedestrian, however, Arroceros offers the incredible: over 3,500 trees on two hectares of city property returning oxygen for carbon monoxide in a cool silent sphere smack in the center of Manila's smelly mayhem.

There are two ancient rubber trees, old narras and mahoganies, a soaring kamagong among young talisays, dapdaps, neems, caballeros, avocados, guavas, aratilis, ylang ylang, even rattan, teak and camphor. The botanically challenged can learn their names from neat labels while ambulating past cement benches and homemade ones of broken branches, sit beside a slowly reviving Pasig River, watch birds, butterflies and leaves turning to mulch. There, too, is Dencio the gardener telling you that students regularly come to peer at everything with magnifying glasses.

He likes them better than the vagrants whom he must discourage, all by his lonesome, from breaching the park fence for a place to spend the night. Two security guards on the park payroll were let go of when funds for this oasis began drying up. Thereby hangs the tale of a mini-forest born from a dream of ecologists among Cory's women army in the '80s.

Having next helped FVR to victory in 1992, their vision for a decaying city was born in 1993, with full support from Malacañang and Manila City Hall. The Winner Foundation, to which they had been an ecology committee, signed a MOA with the city government to establish and run a forest-park. In the first three years, they raised P3 million, since spent on a good perimeter fence, 3,500 seedlings, salaries and operations that have included a nursery and tree-planting all over Metro Manila.

Money was not an object then. Help poured from government: the Land Bank (which sold this mortgaged former DECS property to Manila City Hall), the Manila Seedling Bank, UP Los Baños and First Lady Ming Ramos' good office. Equally generous, if not more so, were donations and pro bono consultations from legal to landscaping, from the same private sector volunteerism that has twice led us to Edsa.

But that a victorious Atienza had it in for Arroceros became clear on their first courtesy visit in 1998, says Winner president Regina Roces-Paterno. Telling them he had "promised" it to "the teachers," MOA or no MOA, he next lambasted the defeated reelectionist Alfredo Lim who had liberated land and planted many trees for a forest-park he dreamt of replicating all over Metro Manila. Drawn political lines deepened from there. Winner joined both campaigns to save the Jai-alai building and Mehan Gardens. Atienza made noises on his own plans for their green oasis—first as a processing zone for street children, then as a dormitory site for public school teachers. Three months after foundation members marched to Edsa II, Atienza did not deny reports that he had sent *hakot* forces to "Edsa III."

Last November, without its landscapist's by-your-leave, he had the park walkway asphalted. A few days ago, an unannounced survey team for a planned boardwalk down Manila Bay and the Pasig gave notice that the park may lose 10 precious meters of riverside ground. Atienza has thus far avoided dialogue, clearly wanting to keep the Winner women on their toes. It's hard to imagine a mayor more opposite to citizens hesitant, despite depleted funds, to solicit badly needed contributions while the park's status is uncertain, preferring to dig into their own pockets to keep the vision going. Higher wisdom is a strange, lovely thing.

Whether Atienza is ready for a high-profile legal battle on a MOA signed by Lim remains to be seen. Whatever his next step, he needs to remember: the audience to another classic battle between a political macho and Filipino woman power is growing. He will answer to nature and the posterity it nourishes as surely as day follows night. Marcos is gone but he need only ask Erap what that's like.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

Nervous reactions vindicate Guingona

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE NERVOUS reaction of some Filipino leaders of different leanings to the recent statement of US President Bush that America would act if (other) governments won't act to combat terrorism indicates that Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona has basis for his insistence that clearer parameters be drawn up regarding the US troops' involvement here. Two Cabinet members, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, as well as former President Ramos, were quick to criticize what was widely read as Bush's undeserved jab at the Philippines for not acting enough against terrorism. Perez was quoted as saying: "We don't depend on what the Americans claim to be necessary" adding that "We do seek assistance from them in case of need, but that doesn't mean they will run the foreign policy of our country." Reyes, on the other hand, stressed that we are "a self-respecting sovereign state, and we will not allow any other country to impose its will on us if it's against our national interest."

* * *

But if I read Guingona right, it is necessary to define our foreign policy in clear and uncertain terms, especially in the light of the United States' avowed determination to stamp out terrorism abroad before this evil inflicts itself once more on US shores. It is a truism that if we don't want the United States to dictate our policy, then it's best that we form it ourselves and not allow ourselves to be stampeded into moves that are against our best interest. Guingona's beef was precisely that the terms of engagement have not been clearly defined from the standpoint of our national interest and that the military establishment has been the major determinant of foreign policy vis-à-vis the Americans, when it should have been the DFA. Recent developments and the confusion over goals and terms from both sides of the Pacific seem to vindicate his militancy.

* * *

Yet, it is also true that President Macapagal appears to be rectifying errors committed earlier in the interest of expediency. She has publicly acknowledged that certain amendments are being made in deference to the wishes of Guingona. At the risk of overstating it, what is needed at this time is not for the Vice President to resign from the Cabinet but precisely to stay in order to provide the nationalist balance there. In fact, there's a lot of monitoring for the nationalists to do in the coming weeks.

As for the President, who is the chief architect of our foreign policy, her acquiescing to certain changes in deference to the Vice President's request is a sign of statesmanship.

It would be truly tragic in this time of serious crisis for the two top officials to part ways over differences that can be patched up. What our people want to see is mutual support and respect between them.

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia met with a group of the working media at his residence yesterday noon over *rellenong bangus bonoan, sugpo* and crabs, as arranged by his wife Gina, who is his best and most effective PR officer. After a lot of photo ops seized by *palangga* Maurice Arcache and Alex van Hagen, and ace photojournalist Mandy Navasero, the media people settled down to some serious conversation with JDV. He pointed out that with the dropping of Zamboanga Rep. Romeo Jalosjos from the House rolls after the Supreme Court affirmed his conviction with finality, he wanted to make sure that the province would still benefit from development projects. Thus, JDV has made arrangements for the 10 mayors from the district, including Jalosjos' sister, to get public works "entitlements." To ensure that these will be well run, the House chief has appointed Rep. Angel Carloto of next-door Zamboanga del Norte to oversee Jalosjos' district. I'm glad that House ethics chair Tony Abaya has agreed to dispense with the debate over the dropping of the lawmaker from the rolls.

* * *

But the biggest news coming from JDV was about the big anti-poverty campaign to be undertaken in strife-torn Basilan simultaneously with the joint RP-US Balikatan operations there. We cannot be too happy over this development for the country's poorest province. Under the original schedule, the anti-poverty component for Basilan was supposed to come at the end of the military operations six months later, but JDV has batted for a parallel effort. Fifty Mindanao congressmen have endorsed the idea, perhaps realizing that, as JDV put it, "a military solution alone will not suffice." What's significant is that the United States will support the anti-poverty program in Basilan. (Recall that the reconstruction of Aghanistan is underway at a cost of $3.5 billion.) US support for the anti-poverty program will undoubtedly help blunt the negative effects of its military involvement.

* * *

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin is scheduled to release some P100 million for the Basilan circumferential road that will unlock markets and open the hinterlands. But the problem is how to effectively monitor the fund releases, since our Muslim brothers are quite notorious for mishandling public works funds.

By the way, Basilan's Gov. Wahib Akbar was recently taken to Pangasinan for a visit of the thriving fishponds in the sea off Lingayen by former Dagupan Mayor Al Fernandez, who is now interior undersecretary. Akbar was said to have become quite excited by what he saw, correctly realizing that his province could have similar fishponds to provide sustainable income for its people who have long been impoverished by war and neglect.

Ten years of 'Bantay Banay'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"BANTAY Banay" in Cebuano means "household (or by extension, community) watch." But it isn't true, as Edna Hontiveros of Forward-Pilipina in Butuan quipped, that many of the members have transformed it into "Bantay Bana (spouse watch)." Although, if one thinks about it, Bantay Banay does address the worst forms of abuse that spouses (*bana*) can inflict on each other.

Ten years ago, Bantay Banay started as a project of Lihok-Pilipina, headed by Tessie Banaynal Fernandez. An experienced community organizer, Tessie sought to translate her newfound commitment to women by initiating a women's micro-credit program. But in the course of the project, many of the members began dropping out or skipping the meetings. Probing deeper, they discovered that these women were falling victim to domestic violence. In some cases, the women's sudden economic independence threatened their spouses, leading to violent fights. Recovering from their injuries and embarrassed to show themselves in public, the women dropped out of the project.

"We realized that not even the best livelihood programs could fully help women as long as they were confronted with violence at home," reflected Tessie. Thus was Bantay Banay founded, harnessing the power of community organizing to address all forms of violence against women.

In time, in addition to organizing community women into para-legal and rescue groups, Bantay Banay went into multi-sectoral alliances, drawing barangay and local officials, doctors and hospital staff, volunteer lawyers and even priests and religious into the project.

* * *

I FLEW into Cebu Thursday to be the guest speaker at the 10th anniversary celebration of Bantay Banay.

It was during the rites that I realized just how much Bantay Banay has grown. From a few urban poor barangays in Cebu City, it has expanded to 30 communities and partners found in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

A program was held right after the Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Msgr. Rommel Kintanar, who chairs the Cebu City Bantay-Banay Inter-Agency Committee. It opened with a dance-prayer by the Bantay Banay Youth, composed of children of the Bantay Banay members as well as child-survivors of violence. So Bantay Banay has expanded not just geographically, but also generationally!

So, congratulations to the women of Bantay Banay and of Lihok-Pilipina for a decade of dedicated and effective work! My personal thanks to Alice Lim and Alice Morada, with whom I shared a sumptuous dimsum lunch, talking about politics, family and life in general. Through such friendships are brief visits turned into homecomings.

* * *

LAST Tuesday, I capped a full day by being the "reactor" at the book launching of "Child Soldiers of the Philippines" by Merliza Makinano, director of the International Labor Affairs Service of the Department of Labor and Employment.

When Assistant Secretary Thonette Velasco-Allones, a friend of mine, invited me to the affair, I wondered why the DOLE would be launching a volume on child soldiers. Isn't the issue better fit for the Department of National Defense or Department of Interior and Local Government to handle?

But thumbing through the slim volume, I realized that indeed soldiering is a form of labor, and one of the worst forms of indentured labor, especially for children. Liza herself pointed out that the situation of children caught in conflict is a serious concern. From 1972, at the escalation of the insurgency and separatist struggle, to 1991, she said, some 4.5 million Filipino children have been affected, directly or indirectly, by the armed conflicts.

* * *

ARVIN Verdeflor, an OFW working as an engineer in Singapore, writes to complain about certain questionable "policies" of immigration officials at the Naia. Here's his story:

Arvin's wife recently got pregnant but because it was proving to be a difficult pregnancy, they decided that she should go home temporarily. The problem was that she would also have to take their two young children with her. They decided to ask her cousin to go to Singapore so she could travel back home with Arvin's wife and kids.

As the cousin was about to board her flight, she was stopped at the immigration counters. The immigration officer demanded that she show proof of her financial capability as a tourist, and failing that, an affidavit of support (available from the embassy in Singapore) stating that she would be provided with board and lodging there.

Told that a faxed copy would do, Arvin immediately went to the Philippine Embassy to get this affidavit. "Two days later, my wife's cousin was again scheduled to fly to Singapore but she was stopped again at the immigration. She showed the immigration officer the faxed copy of the affidavit of support that I sent but the officer refused to accept it because it was just a 'Xerox' copy. Anyway, to make a long story short, my cousin was finally let go by another officer.

"My question is, is it legal for the immigration people to prevent someone who does not have a 'hold order' from leaving the country? I can understand if it's the Singapore immigration who will ask for an affidavit of support. But it doesn't seem right that our government would prevent a Filipino from leaving the country under the circumstances I presented."

What I'd also like to know is, would the cousin have been stopped if she were "dressed for success" and looked like she could afford to visit Singapore? Doesn't this policy smack of class bias?

Safeguards on absentee voting

COMMENTARY

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT is committed to grant our overseas workers the right to vote. To date a number of bills have been filed seeking to extend them such right.

But unless we computerize and cleanse the electoral process—unless we introduce the necessary safeguards—it seems inappropriate to transfer the temptations of "*dagdag-bawas*" abroad and in effect thrust upon the overseas Filipinos a flawed voting process that could put the nation to shame before the international community.

The earlier we reform the election process, therefore, the earlier we can pass the needed legislation enabling the overseas Filipino to vote.

Most, if not all the pending bills, seek to grant absentee voting for candidates for president, vice president and senators. That's okay. They are, after all, national officials whose offices are enshrined in the Constitution. But a closer look at the proposal would reveal certain practical problems.

Conducting a personal campaign abroad could pose grave challenges to the candidates: the high cost, the far-flung places to go to, the means to reach millions of Filipinos in foreign lands. Not even the use of sophisticated texting and Internet facilities could adequately satisfy a candidate's desire to explain to millions of overseas Filipino workers his qualifications and program. Besides, there are some countries like China and those in the Middle East, where gathering of campaign crowds are restricted.

Absentee voting could also open embassies abroad to partisan politics. An ambassador is basically non-partisan. He serves to foster economic and political ties between the Philippines and the nation he is accredited to. He protects and defends the interests of our citizens abroad, including the growing number of OFWs. He is not expected to campaign for any candidate, not only because of his non-partisan tasks, but also because the embassy itself may be used in the absentee voting process.

True, representatives from the Commission on Elections can be sent abroad, but the officials and personnel of the embassy should assist in the process of registration, identification and qualification of voters. If the actual voting and canvassing are to be done on the premises of the embassy, and not by mail, then the work of the ambassador and his staff becomes compounded.

In discharging these additional tasks, it is basic that the embassy stays strictly neutral like the Comelec. And in all probability the embassies abroad will do so.

But between perception and reality, clouds of doubt may hover. If a presidential candidate in a close fight wins overall but loses heavily in a particular embassy, the temptation for that winning candidate to unduly ground or transfer that envoy to a hardship post could creep in and become reality. That would be a partisan political act that could be bad for the country, and bad for its international image.

Perhaps we should initially refocus our sights on the simple and doable. Then after a successful experiment in conducting absentee voting, we can make the needed adjustments.

The proposal of some OFWs we have consulted, including ambassadors abroad, is to allow Filipino citizens abroad to vote for their own representatives in the House to represent, say, the Filipinos in Japan. There are about 200,000 of our countrymen living and working there. They elect from among themselves their representative who will sit in Congress with voice and vote as a full-fledged congressman to initiate and enact bills or resolutions he believes will redound to his constituents living in Japan.

There are at present around 220 congressmen in the House of Representatives. The Constitution allows a maximum of 250. Therefore there are still some vacancies that need to be filled allowing our OFWs to elect one of their own as their representative in Congress. Perhaps there can be one representative for every 200,000 Filipinos living in one country or area abroad.

This way we grant them a viable process of absentee voting. They have their own NGOs, their own organizations, and the Comelec can look into their status and establish fair criteria for accreditation for those who can assist them in the electoral process.

We should also learn from the experiences of other countries that allow absentee voting. Not so much the developed ones like the United States as the developing countries with large migrant communities like Thailand.

We should also encourage more public discussions on this vital issue, aside from the regular public hearings called by Congress. What is important is that the Filipino abroad be given the right to vote for the candidate of his choice.

Our OFWs work abroad. They sacrifice. They earn. They send remittances home. Let us in turn extend to them the right to vote.

Small towns, small minds

YOUNGBLOOD

VAF

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

A FRIEND from my previous job in Manila was in town recently for a short vacation. I would have loved to meet him at the airport, greet him and kiss his cheek, ask excitedly about our mutual friends, extend to him the hospitality of my family's home and proudly show around my hometown. But I couldn't do all that.

My friend has a model's slim body, long, jet-black hair and a smooth, fair skin that is never without cosmetics. He is gay. And much as I love my birthplace, it is clear to me that gender sensitivity and tolerance for the gay lifestyle have been excruciatingly slow in coming to this small town masquerading as a city.

A good example would be, I am ashamed to say, my own family. Gayness has always been taboo in my home. I can remember my brothers being strictly admonished never to indulge in "girlish" pastimes lest they would grow up to be gay. Thus, they always had the traditional toy guns, racing cars and violent video games. And I was taught early in life which things were properly for girls, and which were properly for boys. Even up to now, the people I live with (like most people here, I suspect) still think homosexual behavior stems from playing with the wrong toys or dressing up with the wrong clothes when one is young.

My long stay in Manila was a never-ending learning experience. Twelve years taught me all I needed to know about different lifestyles, different values, the relativity of what is true, good or acceptable. I learned that the disease theory of homosexuality had long since been debunked by the medical community. I learned that it is nearly impossible to define homosexuality in terms of genetics, or environment, or even both. I also learned that most studies on homosexuality are pointless in that they try to pinpoint a cause for what is seen to be aberrant behavior. Those who conduct such studies preach tolerance and understanding while following society's demand to find out who or what to blame for homosexuality.

My friend is gorgeous. He is definitely not "*pa*-man," but neither is he ostentatiously "*pa-girl*." While several other gays I know have a woman's wardrobe, he pulls out all the stops only when the occasion calls for it. And then I would think I could kill to have the allure and sexiness he projects.

In the brains department, he is definitely no slouch, belying popular belief that gays only think about where their next man is coming from. We met in a rarefied atmosphere where individualism is celebrated and there other people, straight or otherwise, hold him in high respect for his varied skills and abilities.

Because of all this and more, I would rather have died before bringing him into our house, where his entire person, all his qualities and achievements would have been stuffed into a box and labeled with a single word that also serves as a condemnation. Worse, he would have been regarded as an object of pity and quite beyond help.

In my last few years in Manila, I found myself in the company of gays as often as straight ones. Some major events in my life were shared with people who were definitely much more than the shrill, sad, shallow *parloristas* still being lampooned on TV. Whenever I needed to pick brains for topics ranging from sex, to politics, to the world economy, to the merits of Marlboro reds versus menthol, they provided me with more insights and opinions than I could mull over for the rest of my life. When I needed to come out with a big decision or make big plans, they were there to criticize, advise and support. When something as simple as tension headache drove me to tears, they were there to comfort me and coax me into taking a pill. Of course, when I committed a booboo, they were the first to make *okray*—and then turn the whole thing immediately into a joke.

All that and more make me realize now that I'm missing a major part of my life. They were more than just laugh and talk partners, they were true friends, inimitably unique and irreplaceable.

At one dinner soon after I returned to my hometown, I had the opportunity to talk about the lifestyle I had in Manila, inevitably leading to the friendships I was blessed to have made. Unfortunately, the usual uncharitable comments were not just dismaying, they rankled. Things got a bit out of hand, and in the end, I found myself figuratively alone at one end of the table, inwardly furious and outwardly at a loss as to how I could make my family understand that gays were capable of genuine friendship.

Twelve years had passed, but the changes were skin-deep. My brother had the gall to project open-mindedness, but went on to tell me to "watch out, because they'll do anything to get a guy, and friendship be damned." Mom maintained her long-standing view that every gay she had ever met—and all the ones she hadn't—were nth-class citizens. She declared that they could be tolerated by polite society so long as they stuck to their fashion shows and attended to their show-biz careers, but they basically didn't have the same rights as "normal" people.

Conditional tolerance abounded in their statements, but I was no longer in the mood to tell them how terribly wrong they were. I didn't bother to remind them that tolerance was for the wrong birthday present and a sloppy kiss from Grandma, not for gay people.

Even my childhood friends who had stayed home disappointed me with their narrow views. Yes, they had gay friends, but the backwater treatment of gays still prevailed.

A very dear friend went to work abroad partly to escape the effects of the scandal that erupted when he and his boyfriend were found out by the guy's family. Though he was younger than the guy, my friend was accused of being the "corrupting influence," as if homosexuality was something that could be passed on by personal contact. The family claimed the guy was perfectly straight before he became involved with my friend. I could only witness, infuriated but helpless, as his name was sullied and passed from tongue to wagging tongue. I gave all the love and support I could, but I suppose a part of him will always carry a horror of small towns and small minds.

The arrival of my friend from Manila put me in a quandary. I wanted to show him around so that he could have a feel of the city, and yet I couldn't even bring him to my own home. I couldn't introduce him to my friends, for although I wanted him to feel less like a stranger and more like a welcome guest, I knew he would be judged by his appearance. I didn't want to take him on a whirlwind tour of malls, restaurants and bars, an experience he could easily get in any other city. I wanted him to know the city through its people, but I couldn't bring myself to make him take that step.

It was a blessing that he had only a day and a half to spare. I hurried him through the introductions I had to make (and even then, I could almost hear what people were thinking), and concentrated on sights, sounds and most especially, tastes.

My friend went home saying he had enjoyed himself, but I knew I could have given him something better, something that comes easily whenever my guest is a straight guy or girl. My mind was actually filled with these regretful, and yes, bitter, thoughts, as I bade him goodbye.

As I kissed his cheek just before he boarded his flight, he hugged me and whispered: "Don't think about it. Everything was wonderful. I don't need everyone's acceptance, just friends like you."

VAF, 23, now lives in a small city in the Visayas.

A thankless job for Camacho

I WATCHED Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho declare that the government has been successful in its management of the budget deficit that stands at P147 billion. All I could do was shake my head in exasperation over the sorry state our country is in. I mean, you have a bloated deficit and one of your top economic managers pats himself on the back for a job well done? Celebrating for not making a woeful situation worse?

At the same time, I could not help but feel sorry for Camacho. The administration asked him to leave a very lucrative job that paid him much, much more than what he is earning as finance secretary, and he gets thrown into the snake pit that is the Cabinet. For what? To be humiliated by political mercenaries in the Senate.

I sincerely believe that he is doing his best and doing a good job at that, given the limitations and problems he inherited from the previous administration. I hope he remains steadfast in his duties because political pressures will definitely be constant companions in his thankless job.

If only businessmen and professionals paid their correct taxes, then maybe the government would be in a better position to finance its projects. It wouldn't have to borrow money and probably get lots more in excess and citizens would enjoy better governance and better and hopefully faster delivery of basic services.

I could just imagine the losses our government suffers because of tax evasion. One doesn't have to be a full-fledged CIA operative to find out. All it would take is to sit in one of those favorite haunts of businessmen and listen.

I once heard a very wealthy doctor brag that, with the help of his accountant, he was able to bring the tax he paid down to P200,000 from P2 million. In just this single transaction, the government lost P1.8 million. Multiply that with the number of tax evaders and the losses could be more than the P147-billion budget deficit.

LETTERS

Effective systems should be put in place at the Bureau of Internal Revenue if the government wants to stop these massive losses in tax collection. And it should also go after corrupt BIR officials who live in luxurious mansions and drive flashy Ford Expeditions.

We also need to teach our people the value of good citizenship. If we pay correct taxes, then we can demand for the correct services from government.

—VICTORIO MARJALINO,
Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City

US troops fanning religious conflict

WE are very much disheartened by the call of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to bestow full support to the Balikatan Kalayaan-Eagle 2002, where the Americans' "friendly assistance" will allow the takeover of the home base of the infamous Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). According to CBCP president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, the American forces will be able to crush the Abu Sayyaf bandits who are presently holding three hostages including an American missionary couple.

On the contrary, various Moro and Christian groups and individuals in the country condemn the deployment of US combat forces in Basilan and the rest of Mindanao for the simple reason that deployment of US troops will fan further religious and racial conflicts, and will lead to further violations of the rights of the Moro people.

In fact, any militarist policy in dealing with the issues of the Moro people and the problems in Mindanao disregard the guidelines for peace and policies against a war of aggression.

We believe that influential religious groups such as the CBCP should be the ones who should initiate the campaign to resolve the crisis that breeds the creation of the Abu Sayyaf, Kuratong Baleleng and other terrorist groups in the country in order to solve the enduring terrorist activities.

Lest we forget, even the Pope disputed the use of "combat operations" in his call for worldwide peace.

—ANTONIO LIONGSON,
Catholic convenor, Moro Christian Peoples Alliance,
48-A Mapagbigay St.,
Pinyahan District,
Diliman, Quezon City

Unfairly dragged into Naia-3 controversy

I HAVE been unfairly dragged into the controversy surrounding the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 Project. Certain vested interests have made baseless and malicious allegations that I had a hand in the award of the project to Piatco and that I had benefited financially from the transaction.

Allow me to narrate the background on my involvement in the project. My narration will show that I was a minor figure who could not have influenced the award of the contract. Moreover, the facts will demonstrate that I did not violate any conflict-of-interest provisions of the law.

1. What was my involvement in the preparation of the technical aspects of the concession agreement between the government and Piatco?

The agreement was signed on July 12, 1997 between then Transportation Secretary Arturo Enrile and Henry Go of Piatco. I was then senior assistant manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA). It is true that I was involved in the technical aspects of the agreement, but my participation was limited to technical matters like the conceptual design of the proposed terminal, its minimum requirements and the like.

I had nothing to do with the formulation of the terms and conditions of the agreement, which was the domain of the Department of Transportation and Communications under Enrile. Similarly I had no hand in the preparation of the first and second supplements to the contract, which was made during the time of DOTC Secretary Vicente Rivera Jr.

2. What was my involvement in the project as vice chair of the House committee on transportation and communications?

In May 1998, I was elected congressman, representing Davao del Norte. I was one of eight vice chairpersons of the House committee on transportation and communications, then chaired by Samar Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon. The committee reviewed the original Naia 3 agreement as well as the amended agreement signed on Nov. 26, 1998 by Rivera and Go of Piatco.

After an exhaustive inquiry, the committee concluded that:

- The relevant government agencies have undertaken the necessary studies, investigations and consultations on the project and found it viable.
- The award of the project to Piatco was proper and valid after the original proponent, Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp., failed to match the challenge proposal within the period provided by law.
- Both original and amended concession agreements were legal and binding contracts. Finding no objectionable provisions in the contract, the committee recommended that the same be complied with faithfully by the two parties.

3. What was the involvement of my wife in Wintrack Builders Inc., a subcontractor for earthwork activities in the Naia 3 project site?

My wife Emelita had some shares of stock in Wintrack Builders Inc., which became a subcontractor of Takenaka Corp. Philippine Branch, a contractor of Piatco for earthworks. I wish to stress that Wintrack did not deal directly with Piatco but only with one of its contractors, and that it won the subcontracting contract in an open bidding.

4. Was there a conflict of interest, considering that I was then a member of the House of Representatives?

There was no conflict of interest simply because I had no power to recommend or influence the decision of private companies which subcontractors to engage. It must be noted that the Wintrack contracts were signed way past the end of the House inquiry into the Piatco contract.

The engagement of Wintrack by Takenaka is no different from the engagement of carpenters and masons whose performance is of no concern to a congressional committee. Wintrack is not the concessionaire; Piatco is. The case would have been different if my wife or I were stockholders of Piatco, which we were not.

Nonetheless, within a month of my appointment to the DOTC on Jan. 23, 2001, my wife divested herself of all her interest and participation in Wintrack. She assigned her entire stockholdings (119,200 shares) to someone who is not a relative within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity as required by law.

5. What is the basis of the plunder case filed against me?

My detractors, led by the MIAA-Naia Association Service Operators (Maso), alleged that there was an overpayment of P56 million to Wintrack, putting the case within the ambit of the anti-plunder law. They also claimed that there was fraud by conspiracy in the alleged overpayment because of a possible connivance among the officers of Wintrack, Piatco and MIAA. They said that Jeffrey Cheng, son of Cheng Yong of Piatco, is my personal friend, while Wintrack was then controlled and managed by associates and members of my family.

In the first place, I was not part of Wintrack. The complainants dragged me into the picture by mere association without even alleging any criminal knowledge or participation on my part. The law clearly states that proof of association is not proof of conspiracy. The Supreme Court has ruled that conspiracy transcends mere companionship, and mere knowledge, acquiescence or approval of the act, without cooperation or agreement to cooperate, is not enough to make one a party to a conspiracy.

In the second place, the one and only source of the complainants' information that there was a conspiracy to commit fraud is the affidavit purportedly signed by Venner Mojica Mendoza. This affidavit has been disowned by the real Venner Mendoza.

This brazen attempt at trickery and deception by my detractors is a clear indication that the plunder case against me is totally baseless and unfounded.

—PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ,
secretary, Department of Transportation and Communications, Units 177-179, 17th Floor, The Columbia Tower,
Barangay Wack-Wack, Ortigas Avenue, 1555 Mandaluyong City

Bank case now sub judice

WE write in response to the articles being published in your paper by two of your columnists.

Ramon Tulfo titled his column last Jan. 29, "A swindling bank and a corrupt police agency." Our bank was directly mentioned when he stated that "some bank officials" were in collusion with a syndicate who perpetrated a scam with an insurance company.

Another columnist, Victor C. Agustin, published a similar item. This is the second item Agustin wrote on the same case. The first one was published on Nov. 23, 2001 and we have responded to it. So we were quite surprised to see the second article despite our previous notice that the case between Fortune Insurance Corp. and the bank is pending in court.

Inasmuch as the case is being heard in court, we are constrained by the rule on sub judice from discussing the case. So is your publication. We may be forced to ask the court to issue a restraining order if this matter continues to be discussed in your paper.

As we have stated previously, the bank has done its own investigation of the matter and it found nothing unusual in the acceptance of the checks whose endorsements were guaranteed by our client. It is really very unfortunate that the bank's name was dragged into this scheme perpetrated by unscrupulous individuals.

We have been serving entrepreneurs for over 40 years, and we will not allow our bank's good name and standing to be besmirched by irresponsible journalism. May we request that you publish this letter in the interest of fairness, given the negative perception those items may have given your readers and the banking public.

—CORA A. MALLILLIN, first vice president, Asiatrust Bank,
Asiatrust Bldg., Quezon Ave.,
Quezon City

Bush's call to arms stirs memories of WWII

NEWS ANALYSIS

Barry Renfrew

LONDON—US President George W. Bush's singling out of Iran, Iraq and North Korea as "an axis of evil" is invoking parallels with the powers headed by Nazi Germany that plunged the world into war.

While the comparison to World War II may seem compelling and the cause is as clear cut, for most of the world the situation is very different.

For a start, there is no axis or alliance between Iran, Iraq and North Korea. Bush's apparent comparison to the Axis Pact of Germany, Italy and Japan in the 1940s was quickly questioned overseas as hyperbolic. And it played up fears that Washington may be about to unleash a major military assault on one of the three rogue states, probably Iraq.

There is little stomach abroad for a protracted war against terror, even in a country like Britain that was quick to back Washington in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington. Most of the world is anxious to avoid or limit military action, fearing it could get out of hand and only make the situation worse.

They want a far softer approach, combining political and economic support for friendly regimes fighting terrorism with limited military action when other options fail.

Bush says Iraq, Iran and North Korea pose a growing threat because of their support for terrorism and their efforts to build or acquire weapons of mass destruction. The threat is growing, he said, and can't be ignored. "States like these, and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world," Bush said Tuesday in his State of the Union Address.

But while the three states are sources of instability and sponsors of terrorism, they are not allies or part of an axis. The three states have little in common except for their opposition to the West and its allies. They are weak and unstable, in no way comparable to the massive power of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

Iran and Iraq are rivals who fought a long war. Iraq is a brutal dictatorship, but Iran has democratic elements and reformers are seeking change. Western Europe is eager to back reform in Iran and there was surprise at Bush's singling out Tehran, which showed signs of backing the war, but is now jostling with Washington for influence in Afghanistan.

North Korea probably is the most isolated state in the world with no real allies, a paranoid dictatorship where many people go hungry. But South Korea's democratic government wants reconciliation with the North, hoping it can produce internal change in the communist state.

All three states are accused of backing terrorism against other nations and trying to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. North Korea sells weapons, especially missiles and rocket technology, to other regimes, including Iraq.

North Korea has developed long-range rockets that can hit Japan and could eventually be a threat to the United States, but the threat is seen as small by most analysts.

Some US and allied officials say that after Sept. 11 nothing can be ruled out, including the eventual threat of a nuclear attack.

"I will not wait on events while dangers gather. I will not stand by as peril draws closer and closer. The United States of America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons," Bush said.

Critics say Bush is exaggerating, that the three would never use weapons of mass destruction because it would ensure their destruction. The top priority of the Iraqi, Iranian and North Korean leaderships is to hold on to power.

There is strong sympathy around the world for the United States in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks and admiration for America's success in Afghanistan. But there are growing fears that Bush's aims are too broad, the terrorists too elusive to be fought with a conventional war. A global war against terrorism could see the West bogged down in a struggle that only creates more foes than it destroys as anti-Western resistance spreads. **AP**

Bilibid POWs freed by 57th ID

COMMANDER Francisco G. Cedula of the Philippine Veterans Legion was quite right when he said the guards at the Bilibid internment camp at the time of Liberation were Formosans or Taiwanese. (High Blood, 1/30/02) However, there were certain details in his account that can stand correction.

Bilibid was liberated not by the 1st Cavalry Division but by the 37th Infantry Division, and it happened not on Feb. 3, 1945 but the following evening, Feb. 4. James J. Halsema, a long-time Baguio resident who was moved to Bilibid in late 1944, told interviewer Michael P. Onorato:

"...Nobody knew where we were...We were discovered by accident on the night of Feb. 4, 1945. The Japanese, in the meantime, at noon on the fourth, called the civilian and military heads of the two prison sections and gave them a document saying formally that they were released but for their own safety they should not go outside the walls....So as soon as the American prisoners acknowledged their release, the Japanese solemnly marched out."

Halsema's sister, Betty H. Foley, in her book "Keepsake," reports that the Japanese detachment was wiped out in combat at a nearby intersection, but this was hearsay.

Cedula could contribute interesting details to our war-time history if he would narrate the details of his unit's activities, and what happened to the Formosans whom they sheltered.

—BENITO LEGARDA JR.,
7 Polk St., Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila

Why object to US help?

WE in the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines wish to express our support for the holding of joint exercises by Philippine and American troops in Basilan. We hope that these exercises will finally lead to the capture and apprehension of the Abu Sayyaf whose terrorist activities have claimed close to 100 lives since 1991 and have caused huge economic losses for the country.

While the government claims that it has been able to trim down the once double-digit unemployment rate, jobs in Mindanao still seem to be as scarce now as back in 1998 during the height of the Philippine military's campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The country's tourism industry is languishing, and investments, both foreign and domestic, have come in trickles partly because of the festering peace and order problem in the southwestern part of Mindanao. The situation in Basilan has reflected badly on the whole country. What's worse is that we have been spending millions in our military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, money that we do not have, money that should go to social services and to poverty eradication.

So if we need the help of the Americans to destroy the Abu Sayyaf once and for all, then let them help us. If it will help bring back the confidence of investors, which in turn will provide much needed jobs for our fellow Filipinos, then why should we object?

The economy has suffered enough. Our workers can no longer wait for the solution to a problem that should have been solved a long time ago.

—ERNESTO F. HERRERA, secretary general, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, TUCP-PGEA Compound,
Maharlika and Masaya Streets,
Diliman, Quezon City

Rage against corruption

THIS refers to the column of Conrado de Quiros, titled "Weakest link," last Jan. 30.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto should immediately resign because as De Quiros says, "he is not part of the cure, he is part of the disease."

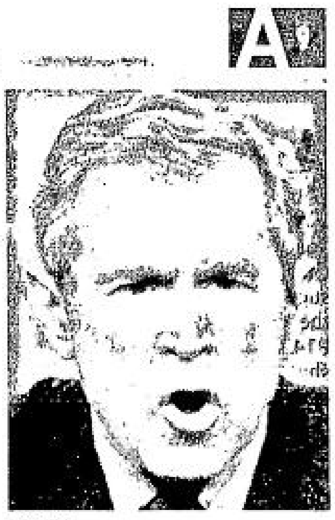
What is lacking in our country is public outrage against incompetence, corruption and inefficiency in government. In Australia and other countries, when a government official uses a government car for a private purpose, people immediately protest and are angry. Why can't we do the same?

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO, orlandicho@
hotmail.com

The WORLD

Luvern B. Gueco, Editor

Bush sticks to guns on charges


BUSH

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush stepped up his verbal attacks Thursday on Iran, Iraq and North Korea, refusing to back off from his charge that the trio form an "axis of evil" and could face US action.

All three countries responded with outrage to Bush's onslaught Tuesday in his State of the Union address, in which he used unusually harsh language to brand them the world's most dangerous regimes.

Undaunted, Bush, reinforced the message on two occasions in speeches in Florida and Georgia, reiterating his accusations against the three countries and warning Washington was ready and willing to take action against them.

The president, who responded to deadly suicide attacks on the United States Sept. 11 by launching a global war on terrorism, said the three countries were busily developing weapons of mass destruction.

"They need to know . . . our intention is to hold them accountable and the rest of the world needs to be with us, because these weapons can be pointed at them as easily as at us, and we cannot let terror and evil blackmail the United States or any other freedom loving country," Bush said.

A senior official travelling with Bush refused to say whether Washington was planning reprisals against the three countries. But Bush indicated any US response would come sooner rather than later.

"We will be wise and deliberate on how we pursue our grand objective, but we will pursue it," he said. "Time is not on our side as these nations develop these sophisticated weapons."

Later, speaking in Georgia, Bush said "the justice of this nation" would be served on countries developing weapons of mass destruction or backing terrorism.

Bush's State of the Union rhetoric drew sharp responses from all three countries.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Bush "thirsty for human blood."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is proud to be the target of the rage and hatred of the world's greatest Satan," Khamenei said.

Iraq branded Bush stupid, arrogant and irresponsible while North Korea accused the United States of hostility and aggression.

The speech was widely condemned by Muslim countries around the Middle East while reaction elsewhere was muted. North Korea's traditional ally China chastising Bush for his harsh choice of words and Russian President Vladimir Putin also expressed reservations. French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine said combating terrorism was not the answer to every problem. **AFP**

Warlord routs Afghan leader's forces; 50 killed in bloody battle

GARDEZ, Afghanistan—Forces of a rival warlord routed the incoming governor of Paktia province in a bloody battle that killed 50 and gave heft to interim Afghan leader Hamid Karzai's pleas for more peacekeepers to help stabilize the war-torn country.

Hundreds of fighters loyal to Padsha Khan—the governor hand-picked by Karzai—retreated Thursday from positions in the hills surrounding Gardez after being pounded by troops belonging to ethnic Pashtun tribal chief Saif Ullah, who grabbed control of Paktia when the Taliban fled late last year.

They were joined at nightfall by more of Khan's fighters, who began the fight Wednesday for control of police barracks and the 1,200-year-old fort which dominates the town.

"We have failed," retreating soldier Amir Khan said. "We cannot compete with them with our Kalashnikovs."

The fighting marks the most serious violence between rival Afghan tribal leaders since the interim government was installed Dec. 22 following the ouster of the Taliban militia, which had sheltered al-Qaida.

The Afghan instability accompanies persistent questions about the direction of the US-led war on terror—as allies protest US treatment of al-Qaida and Taliban detainees and Bush administration warnings that reprisals could extend beyond Afghanistan.

A chorus of condemnation rose from the Middle East after US President George W. Bush singled out Iran, Iraq and North Korea as "an axis of evil" and threatened to act against them.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Bush "thirsty for human blood," while Iraq branded Bush stupid, arrogant and irresponsible. Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Gulf state newspapers also expressed outrage.

Undaunted, Bush, reiterated his accusations and warned Washington was ready to take action sooner rather than later.

"They need to know . . . our intention is to hold them accountable and the rest of the world needs to be with us, because these weapons can be pointed at them as easily as at us," Bush said.

Bush's warning came amid revelations the al-Qaida network, blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks, plotted attacks against nuclear power plants, landmarks and public water facilities in the United States.

A senior defense official said documents and maps recovered by US troops from bombed Afghan sites suggest al-Qaida was compiling information about nuclear plants and landmarks such as Seattle's Space Needle.

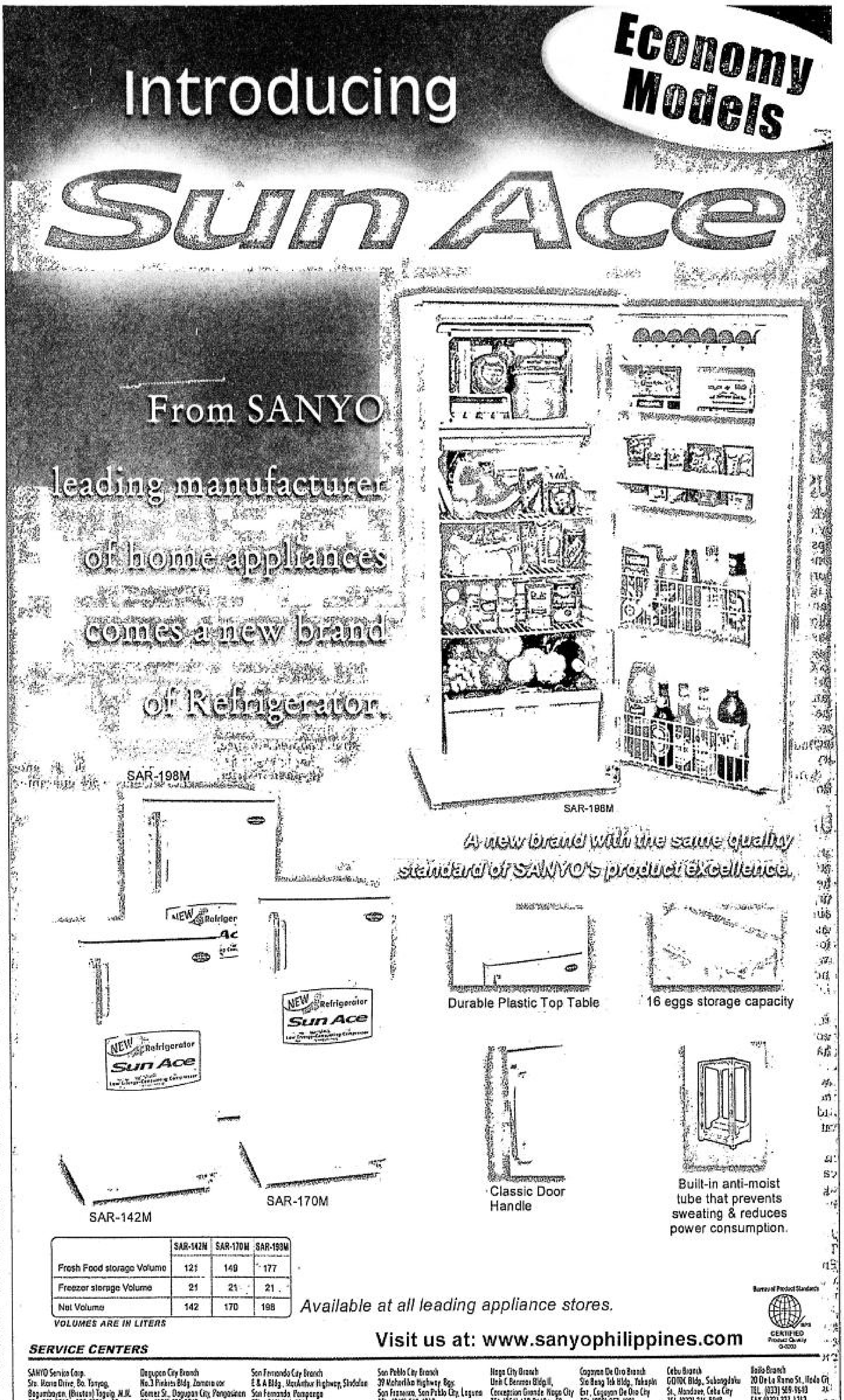
The violence in Paktia—and earlier reports of clashes in northern Afghanistan between rival supporters of ethnic Uzbek general Abdul Rashid Dostam and defense minister Qasim Fahim—fueled fears the country could again descend into factional chaos.

From London, Karzai repeated a message he delivered a day earlier to the UN Security Council, pleading for more international peacekeeping troops to be deployed across the whole of his vast country, not just in the capital, Kabul.

"The Afghan people are asking for more and more security forces as a measure of international guarantees of stability in Afghanistan, to see that Afghanistan gets the stability and peace that it requires," he said after talks with Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The British-led International Security Assistance Force, with a six-month UN mandate to enforce security in Kabul, numbers about 2,000 soldiers and should reach 4,500 by the end of February.

Blair, whose government has committed up to 2,100 troops to the force, pledged a "long-term" international commitment to Afghanistan but made no promise to send more troops. **AFP**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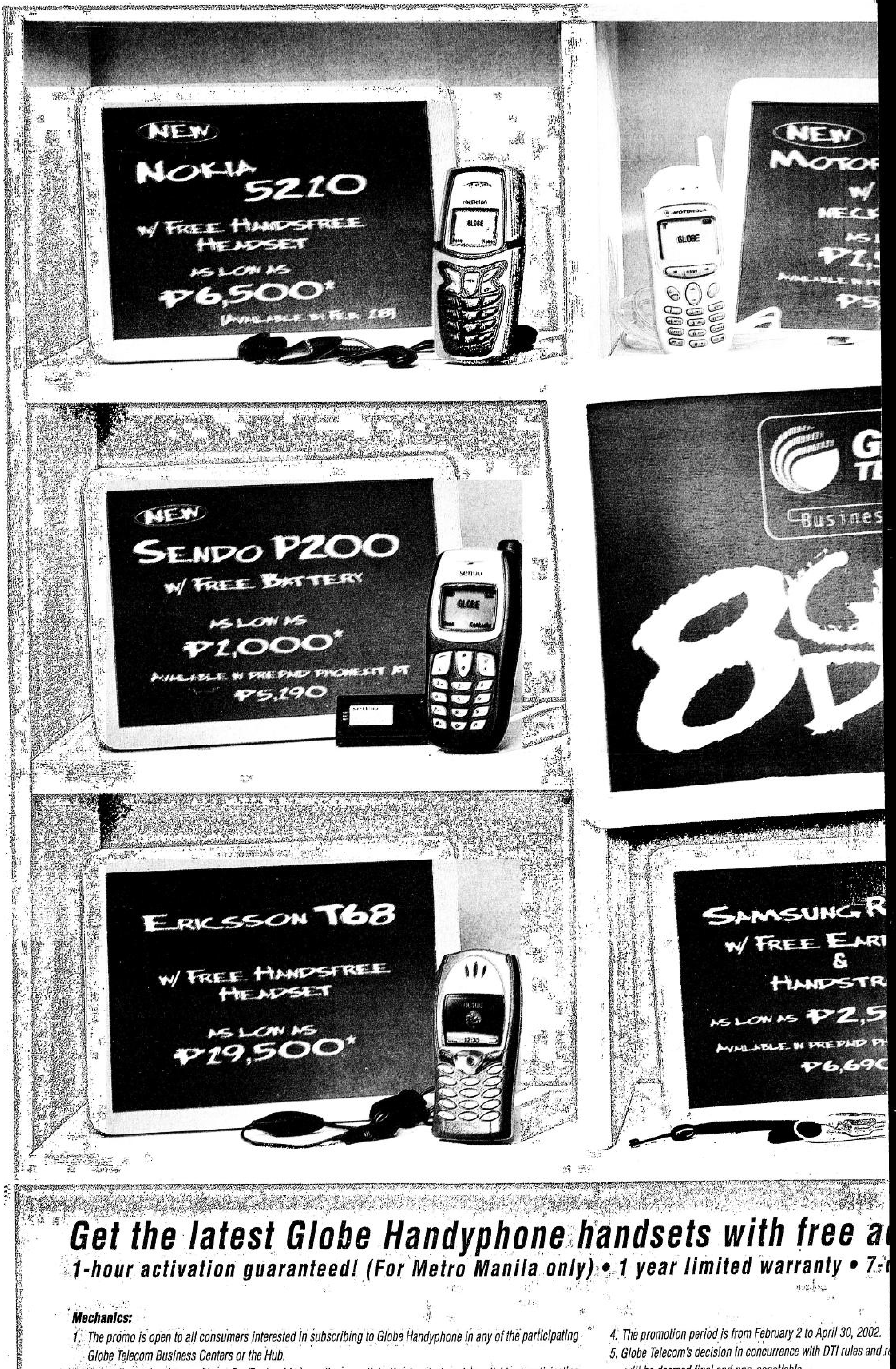
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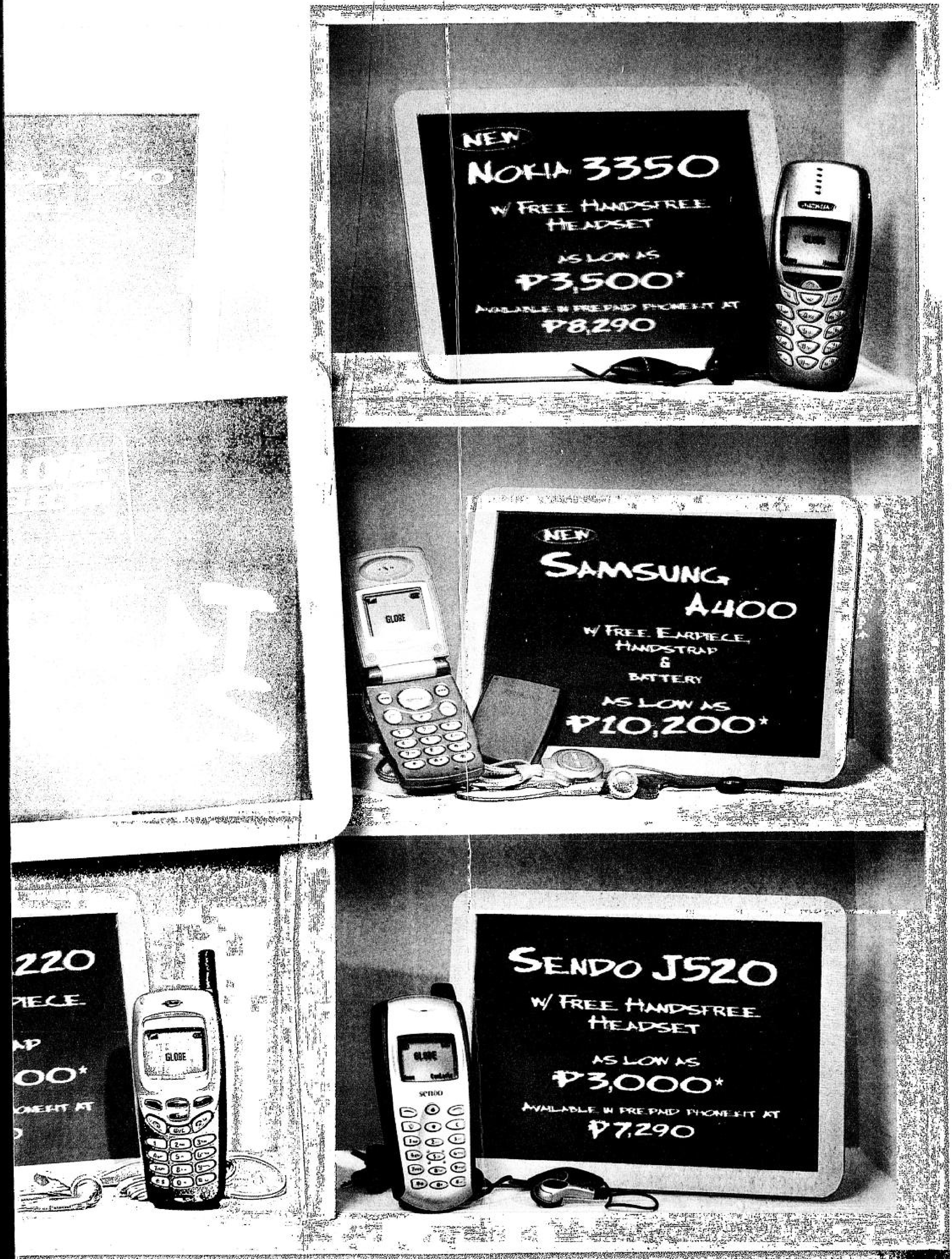
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Bin Laden justifies killing of innocents

KABUL—Osama bin Laden used his only television interview after the Sept. 11 attacks he allegedly masterminded to justify the killing of innocent people.

The Saudi-born Bin Laden's reappearance in the world's media late Thursday came amid uncertainty over the direction of the war on terror he helped to provoke and the prospects for Afghanistan's stability following intense tribal fighting in the east of the country.

The world's most wanted man, whose whereabouts are unknown and who may have been killed during US bombing of al-Qaida hideouts in Afghanistan, was interviewed on Oct. 21 by Al-Jazeera.

The Arabic news channel never broadcast the tape but CNN acquired a copy and aired excerpts of it for the first time.

In it, Bin Laden calmly provided an explanation of how terrorist attacks could be regarded as permissible and logical under Islamic law—remarks that British Prime Minister Tony Blair used last year to defend the military onslaught on the Taliban regime which sheltered Bin Laden.

Asked about his alleged involvement in the Sept. 11 attacks, Bin Laden said: "America has made many accusations against us and many other Muslims around the world.

"Its charge that we are carrying out acts of terrorism is unwarranted."

He added: "If inciting people to do that is terrorism, and if killing those who kill our sons is terrorism, then let history be witness that we are terrorists."

Later in the interview, Bin Laden said: "We kill the kings of the infidels, kings of the crusaders and civilian infidels in exchange for those of our children they kill. This is permissible in Islamic law and logically."

Bin Laden was asked by the Al-Jazeera reporter: "So what you are saying is that this is a type of reciprocal treatment. They kill our innocents, so we kill their innocents?" *AFP*

Ex-Enron boss recommended bets to top US posts

WASHINGTON—Former Enron chair Kenneth Lay recommended candidates to fill top government posts including Pat Wood, now chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the White House said on Thursday.

"These were recommendations early in the administration. Recommendations came from trade organizations, members of Congress and industry officials," said White House spokesperson Ken Lisaius.

Wood, a Texas Republican, was appointed FERC chair last summer by President George W. Bush with the support of the once high-flying Enron, until recently the world's biggest energy trader.

Enron was also the biggest contributor to Bush's election campaign and representatives from the Houston-based company met six times with Vice President Dick Cheney or staff involved in developing the administration's energy policy.

Democrats have raised questions about Bush's close ties to Enron executives and have asked if the firm used its influence in closed-door meetings with Cheney to shape a favorable administration energy policy.

Administration officials concede Enron had access but deny that the company influenced policy.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported on Wednesday that Lay handed Cheney a memo last year that included suggestions resembling elements of the Bush administration energy policy.

The report came as the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, said it would take legal action to find out what role Enron and other may have played in the White House energy plan.

As the fallout mounted from the company's descent into the largest bankruptcy in US history, the FERC on Thursday joined congressional committees, the Justice Department, the Labor Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission in probing Enron's business practices. *Reuters*

ISRAELI soldiers look at an installation prepared to fire mortars into the Jewish settlement of Gush Katif in the Gaza Strip they discovered Jan. 31. Israeli forces killed two Palestinian gunmen from the Islamic militant group Hamas who ambushed a convoy headed for a Jewish settlement in the southern Gaza Strip. Shortly after the attack, mortar shells hit a settlement in the Gush Katif bloc, injuring one Israeli. REUTERS

Israel should have killed Arafat in 1982, says Sharon

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in an interview on Thursday Israel should have killed Yasser Arafat in 1982 when it had the Palestinian leader under siege in Beirut.

Sharon's comments underlined the depth of animosity between himself and Arafat after 16 months of violence and pushed the prospects of their holding peace talks even further back.

Recriminations over Sharon's remarks and new violence in which Israeli troops killed two Palestinian gunmen and one teenager on Thursday overshadowed efforts to persuade the United States to resume high-level mediation in the conflict.

But in a new sign of attempts to secure a truce, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he expected to meet Palestinian parliamentary speaker Ahmed Korei on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in New York later on Thursday.

"The prime minister knows I am going to meet him (Korei) and knows what I will speak to him about," Peres told Israel's Channel One television.

Previous meetings between the two architects of interim Middle East peace deals have failed to stem the bloodshed, and Sharon has previously given Peres a limited mandate.

Sharon blames Arafat for failing to rein in militant groups during the 16-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation. Arafat accuses Sharon of blocking peace, and his aides say the Israeli leader has a vendetta to remove Arafat from the scene.

Their animosity goes back decades, to when Arafat was in Lebanon during Israel's invasion in 1982.

"In Lebanon it was agreed that Arafat would not be eliminated. To tell the truth, I'm sorry we didn't eliminate him," Sharon told the Israeli newspaper Maariv.

Sharon directed the invasion of Lebanon as defense minister, sending tanks and troops to the outskirts of Beirut where they bottled up Arafat and his PLO fighters before an internationally brokered deal led to the Palestinians' evacuation by sea. *Reuters*

Group extends deadline for reporter

ISLAMABAD—A group claiming to hold a kidnapped US reporter said on Thursday it was extending by one day a deadline for the United States to release Pakistani prisoners from the Afghan war, or they would kill their captive.

Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, 38, disappeared in the southern city of Karachi last Wednesday while working on a story about accused shoe-bomber Richard Reid.

The group claiming to hold him sent an e-mail message to some Western and Pakistani media organizations on Thursday vowing violence against Americans, according to a message received by Pakistan's largest circulation newspaper, the Jang daily.

"We give him one more day. If America will not meet our demands we will kill Daniel," said the message.

A previous e-mail issued by the group late Wednesday threatened to kill Pearl within 24 hours unless the United States released Pakistani prisoners detained at a US naval base in Cuba and in Afghanistan.

"Don't think this will be the end, it is the beginning and it is a real war on Amrikans. Amrikans will get the taste of death and destructions what we had got in Afg and Pak," the message said.

In New York, Wall Street Journal Managing Editor Paul Steiger issued an open letter to the group claiming to hold Pearl, saying "a freed Danny can explain your cause." A previously unknown group, The National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty, purportedly kidnapped the journalist.

"Danny Pearl's wife and I are thankful for the additional time," Steiger wrote. "I also hope that you and we can use that time to start a true dialogue." *Reuters*

REUTERS

RUDA sticking out his tongue in a Bochum court room Jan. 31

Satanist killers draw long jail terms

BOCHUM, Germany—A couple who killed a friend by stabbing him 66 times in a Satanic ritual were given long prison sentences on Thursday in a case that has fascinated Germany with bizarre details of blood-sucking and devil worship.

Daniel Ruda, a 26-year-old former car-parts salesman, and his wife Manuela, 23, had confessed to murdering the man in their apartment surrounded by human skulls, cemetery lights, scalpels and incense—because the Devil ordered them to do so.

The victim, a 33-year-old colleague of Daniel Ruda who he has chosen because his mild nature and love of The Beatles enraged them, was found covered in knife wounds and with a scalpel protruding from his stomach.

A pentagram, the sign of the Devil, had been carved into his chest.

The pair have shown no remorse, saying they were merely following the Devil's order to send him a human sacrifice because he wanted a "court jester."

A judge in the western town of Bochum found the local pair guilty of murder and sentenced Daniel to 15 years in jail and Manuela to 13 years, but said the possibility they may kill again meant they might never be released. *Reuters*

Japan loses data on new warplane

TOKYO - A computer containing data on stealth aircraft technology has been stolen, the head of Japan's Defense Agency admitted Friday, adding the theft did not pose a national security threat.

"The data itself could not be used to extrapolate the capability of a future fighter jet, and I don't think it can be put to bad use," said the defense agency's director general, Gen Nakatani.

"(The loss) is extremely regrettable as an agency, and we have asked the companies to take measures to ensure this does not happen again," Nakatani told a news conference Friday.

The Tokyo Shimbun newspaper broke the story about the November theft in its morning edition.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., the company in whose care the computer had been, had been commissioned to develop a simulation program for the agency to enable future Self-Defense Forces aircraft to use stealth technology.

The computer containing data related to the program was stolen along with others from the third floor of a building that housed one of the subcontractors Mitsubishi had hired for some of the work, a defense agency spokesman said.

There were no signs of a break-in in the building in Nagoya, some 250 km west of Tokyo, Jiji news reported.

The defense agency said the breach did not amount to the loss of a defense secret so the thieves, if caught, would not be dealt with under a law calling for stiff punishment for leaking defense secrets. *AFP*

WEARING her tudong, Nurul Nasihah Mohd Nasser looks at reporters interviewing her father upon arrival at a public school in Singapore Feb. 1. AFP

Schoolgirl defies Singapore ban on wearing Islamic headscarf

SINGAPORE—A Singaporean schoolgirl was brought to school by her father Friday still wearing her Islamic headscarf in defiance of a government deadline to remove it.

Wearing the black headgear over her peach school uniform, Nurul Nasihah, aged seven, arrived at the White Sands Primary School tugging at her father Mohamed Nasser.

But she was allowed to stay after the principal extended the deadline until Monday.

Nurul and two other girls from separate schools had been given until Friday to stop wearing the headgear, which the government has banned inside schools as part of an effort to promote racial integration among its ethnic Chinese, Muslim Malay and Indian communities.

It was still unclear if the other girls defied the deadline and the education ministry said it would issue a statement later Friday. A fourth girl was also expected to face the same sanctions.

The ministry, which requires pupils to strictly adhere to the required school uniform, has warned they would be suspended if they defied the deadline.

"She (the principal) is giving me until Monday to decide whether to take out the headscarf from my daughter," Mohamed Nasser told about a dozen reporters who had staked out the school.

He said he would use the weekend to think it over and meet leaders of Singapore's Islamic religious council and Muslim Malay MPs to help him decide.

Nasser, a 37-year-old airline employee, said he could either send his daughter to a "madrasah" or a Muslim school, or seek a compromise such as getting an assurance that his daughter will be allowed to wear the headscarf once she reaches the age of puberty. *AFP*

Japan names new foreign minister vice Tanaka

TOKYO—Japan Friday named environment head Yoriko Kawaguchi as its new foreign minister to replace the ousted Makiko Tanaka, after former UN refugee chief Sadako Ogata turned down the post.

"We decided to appoint Environment Minister Kawaguchi as foreign minister, a post now being filled concurrently (with the premiership) by Prime Minister (Junichiro) Koizumi," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said.

The nomination is likely to be formalized later Friday.

Kawaguchi, a 61-year-old former senior bureaucrat in the trade ministry and businesswoman, is one of four remaining women in Koizumi's inaugural Cabinet. Her appointment ends two days of intense speculation over who would fill the high-profile role.

"We very much wanted Mrs. Ogata to take up the job, but I received a reply directly (from her) this morning that she could not abandon her current job by becoming foreign minister . . . although she made various efforts," Fukuda said.

Ogata, 74, is currently the prime minister's envoy for Afghanistan as well as a research fellow at the Ford Foundation in New York.

Hiroshi Oki, a male lawmaker and former head of the environment agency, will become the new environment minister.

Koizumi sacked Tanaka and her ministry's top bureaucrat, administrative vice foreign minister Yoshiji Nogami late Tuesday, after a dispute between the pair stalled parliamentary business. *AFP*

JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (right), seen with Environment Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi (left) at parliament in this Dec. 13, 2001 photograph. REUTERS

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52 Chinese held for poaching in Tubbataha Reef

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Fifty-two Chinese nationals and nine Filipinos on board four vessels were apprehended by authorities off Cagayancillo town, according to Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza, Western Command chief.

Authorities also seized 200 giant clams (*Tridacna gicas*), 54 turtles, and an undetermined amount of dynamites and cynanide.

The fishermen were arrested inside the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park (TRNMP) in Cagayancillo, Carranza said.

The Tubbataha Reef is situated 92 nautical miles southeast of this city. It can be reached in five hours by a Navy fastcraft and in 10 hours by a regular boat.

Park rangers and officials of the Naval Forces West (NavForWest) reported that they also confiscated fish, sharks and detonator cords from the vessels.

Carranza said the Chinese tried to bribe the apprehending authorities but failed. An undetermined amount of money was preserved as evidence, he said.

An inventory of cargoes in the other vessels was being undertaken, he said.

Angelique Morato-Songco, Tubbataha Park manager, said the rangers apprehended the first vessel around 12 noon Thursday, while the three others were caught early yesterday morning by the NavForWest.

A fifth vessel escaped.

"There could be more (turtles) than the initial count as we (conduct an) inventory (of) the other vessels," she said.

Carranza, who also heads the Provincial Committee on Illegal Entrants (PCIE), said charges would be filed against the Chinese poachers.

The Philippine Navy was still consolidating pieces of evidence. The vessels and their Chinese crew will be brought to this city.

Crewmen of the Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas (KKP), a nongovernment group and marine conservation advocate, supported authorities in apprehending the poachers.

Adelle Villena, counsel of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff which regulates environmental projects and implements environmental laws in the province, said a number of cases would be filed against the poachers.

Among these are violations of the Philippine Wildlife Act, poaching and illegal entry.

Songco, a dive instructor, explained the importance of the Tubbataha Reef not only as one of the best dive sites in the world but also as a marine conservation area.

The 33,200-hectare reef system lies in the heart of the Sulu Sea. It is home to 372 coral species, 410 fish species, six marine mammal species, seven algae species, 18 seabird species and two nesting turtle species.

In a recent fish biomass survey, it has a total of 87.21 metric tons of fish per square kilometer, the highest fish yield so far in the Philippines.

Because of the rare and globally significant biodiversity of Tubbataha, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization declared it the country's first marine national park in 1998 and a world natural heritage site in 1993.

Although efforts to safeguard the park have been intensified, the park is still threatened because of inadequate financial support and manpower.

Rats strike anew in Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Rrodents again invaded rice fields in Pampanga and other Central Luzon provinces, threatening to affect the yield of farmers this year.

The Department of Agriculture regional office here noted an alarming rate of rat infestation in the towns of Apalit, Arayat, Candaba, Floridablanca, Lubao, Magalang, Porac and San Simon, all in Pampanga.

Rice fields in the towns of Concepcion, La Paz, Ramos, San Manuel and Victoria in Tarlac and Llanera town in Nueva Ecija are also infested with rats, according to the DA.

However, the department advised farmers against using poisonous chemicals to exterminate the rodents because these could adversely affect humans who eat rat meat.

The use of flame-throwers is also discouraged because these can start grass fires that can destroy rice plants ready for harvest.

Many farmers have resorted to catching or killing the rats by using traps and air guns. This is more socially acceptable than other methods because many farmers consider the rice-eating rodents as delicacies, the DA said.

Farmers said rat meat tastes like chicken meat.

The population of rodents continues to increase because of the dwindling number of snakes, their natural enemies, due to poaching, farmers said.

Snakes are being hunted for their meat. Their blood and livers are also being sought for their supposed healing qualities.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi31° Lo22°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 22° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 19°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 19°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research/02/01/02

ROUNDUP

P12 wage hike OKd

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The regional wage board granted a P12 increase in pay to workers in Northern Mindanao, but the order remained unimplemented because of disagreements on who should benefit from it. Alan Macaraya, labor regional director, said that unless the labor and management sectors come to an agreement, the increase would not be given. Labor groups were demanding that the increase be across-the-board, but management representatives were insisting that only minimum-wage earners should be covered. The current minimum wage in the region is P173.

Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

103 bridges planned

LUCENA CITY—The government aims to build 103 bridges in Southern Tagalog, Interior Secretary Jose Lina said here Wednesday during the inauguration of the President's Bridge Program Regional Depot 2. The facility, located inside the provincial engineering compound in Barangay Talipan, Pagbilao, will serve as a depository of bridge construction materials for different projects in the region. It was built through the help of Austrian Consul Harold Ulbrich.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cop charged with rape

TACLOBAN CITY—A policeman assigned in Hinabagan, Samar, was suspended for 90 days after his 15-year-old daughter charged him with rape on Jan. 7. Chief Supt. Nardito Yoro, regional police director, issued the suspension order, which took effect on Jan. 28. But the policeman was already nowhere to be found after he went on Absent Without Leave on Jan 8. In a complaint filed before the municipal trial court of Catbalogan, the victim said her father had been raping her since 1999 while her mother was out of their house.

Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Killer gets jail term

BACOLOD CITY—A former city employee was sentenced to 40 years in prison for the murder of his live-in partner on Valentine's Day eight years ago. Regional Trial Court Judge Edgar Garvilles found Efren Amoroso guilty of stabbing and killing Flordeliza Torres on Magsaysay Avenue and Taculing Road here. Amoroso told the court that he stabbed Torres because he was angry with her for not telling him that she had an abortion six months earlier. Amoroso was arrested here last Aug. 23.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Tourism, agri priorities

TAGBILARAN CITY—Tourism and agriculture top the priorities of provincial government. Gov. Erico Aumentado said his goal was to establish as flagship projects sustainable eco-cultural tourism and agro-industrial development sites. "Our cultural and tourism destinations are so vast and varied that we have to cluster them for more impact to tourists," he said. In return, he said, hotel and resort operators had reduced their rates by 40-50 percent as incentives for foreign and domestic tourists to come to Bohol.

Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

AFP lists NPA 'victims'

LEGAZPI CITY—At least four civilians and a policeman were killed by the communist New People's Army in Bicol in January, according to the Armed Forces Civil Relations Group in Bicol. Maj. Jose Broso, group commander, said the victims were Lopo Ola, who was killed in Barangay Bololo, Guinobatan, Albay; brothers Joer and Roberto Gime, in Bulan, Sorsogon; SPO2 Domingo Mabini of the Daraga police, in Barangay San Jose, Daraga; and Dexter Sambahon, of Jovellar, Albay. Broso also said soldiers clashed twice with the rebels in Barangay San Isidro Panganiban, Daet, Camarines Norte, and in Sitio Tagbac, Bololo, Guinobatan, Albay.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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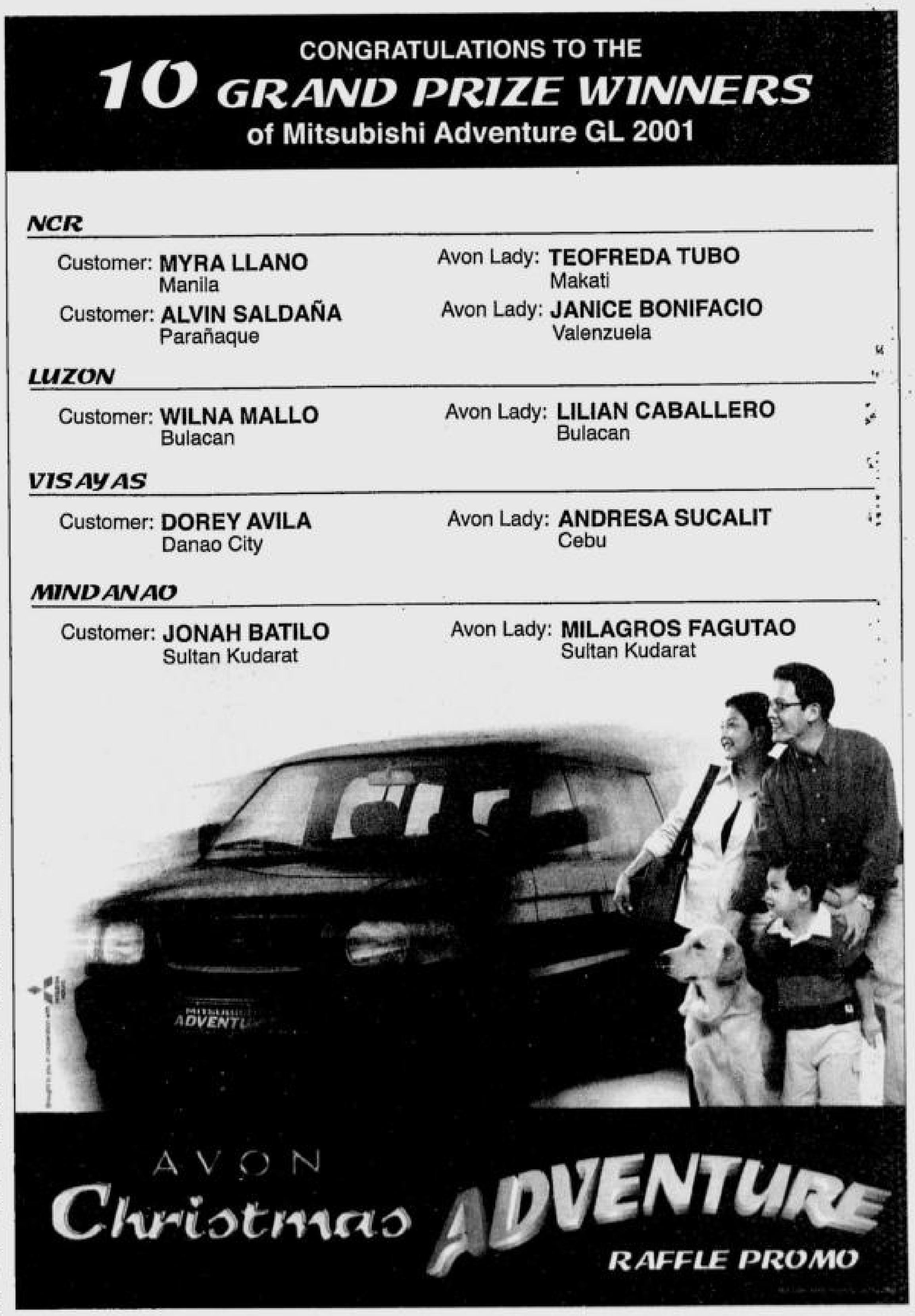
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AVON
Christmas ADVENTURE
RAFFLE PROMO

Gordon suspends Mt. Pinatubo treks

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon on Friday suspended eco-tourism treks to all routes leading to Mt. Pinatubo pending investigation of the killing of an American at the lower flanks of the world-famous volcano.

Explaining the suspension of tours in the area, Gordon said the Department of Tourism was exercising "due diligence."

On the killing of American Brian Thomas Smith and the wounding of German Siegfried Wittman (not Whitman as earlier reported), Gordon said his department was getting to the "bottom of the incident."

The two were ambushed while climbing Pinatubo through the Sapang Uwak route in Porac, Pampanga.

That route is less traveled because of its deep ravines, four waterfalls that mobilize sand and ash spewed out by Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991.

It is an uneven path littered by boulders and carved by almost 15-meter tall volcanic flows, an INQUIRER visit to the site two years ago showed.

Gordon did not specify the time for the resumption of the tours but said these would start again after security issues around the volcano were reviewed and the investigation of the ambush was over.

Seven months ago, a United States sailor was also attacked in an assault claimed by New People's Army rebels.

The sailor was rescued more than 30 hours after he went missing.

"We are not anticipating any immediate problem but we wanted to eliminate any possible source of threat in the area," he said in a telephone interview.

There was still no assessment on how the ambush had undermined the DOT's aggressive promotion of Philippine tourism.

Col. John Bolhayon, commander of the 703rd Infantry Brigade that complemented the search operations, said the initial suspect in the attack was a male Aeta rebel who was expelled by the NPA.

Bolyahon, citing reports gathered by Army intelligence agents, told reporters that the Aeta, whom he did not identify, was expelled because of a rape case.

Wittman said their attacker was a "small black guy with a rifle." He said he "could have been an Aeta" based on the small footprints he saw on where Smith, 33, was shot dead from the back.

Wittman was rescued after 27 hours. Smith's body, located late Thursday, was retrieved at 11:30 p.m. Friday.

It took a team of Philippine Air Force and Army soldiers almost four hours to get Smith's body.

Bad weather over the area made the retrieval difficult, according to Air Force Maj. Allan Fidellaga, search mission commander.

US Embassy personnel took his body to a funeral parlor in this city.

Gordon said investigators were determining if the Aeta had personal grudges against the two foreigners who, reports said, regularly frequented Mt. Pinatubo.

There are four routes to the volcano: Through Sta. Juliana in Capas, Tarlac; Botolan in Zambales; Sapang Bato in Angeles City near Clark; and Sapang Uwak in Porac, also in Pampanga.

Among the access sites, the Sta. Juliana is highly encouraged because the DOT initiated an eco-tourism project there with the residents. The area, especially the Crow Valley, is within the PAF's gunnery range.

Gordon said the suspension of treks would disappoint many foreign and local tourists.

About 2,000 visitors come to Pinatubo yearly to see its placid crater-lake and the gray landscape of volcanic sand, ash, pumice stones.

Cops round up 4 suspects in doctor's kidnap

By TJ Burgonio

POLICE rounded up four suspected kidnappers in Laguna and Quezon before dawn yesterday hours after their victim, a doctor, was freed unharmed after paying P1.3 million in ransom.

The suspects, identified as Orestes Ramos, 32; Pelmo Kauyan, 38; Enrique Decena Jr., 31, and Gerry Briones, 28, were arrested in a series of operations in San Pablo City, Laguna, and in Dolores, Quezon, at 4:30 a.m.

Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes, Southern Tagalog police director, said lawmen failed to recover the ransom money and were still hunting down two other suspects, whom he declined to identify.

Police also have in their custody another suspect who was arrested Thursday afternoon. The suspect, who was not identified, was helping the police track down the two other suspects, he said.

Reyes and Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, presented the four suspects, as well as the freed victim, Dr. Arturo Boa, to journalists in Camp Crame in Manila.

"He's in good physical health," he said of Boa, 53, who declined to answer questions from the media.

Police said Boa was released on Thursday morning at an undisclosed place after his family paid the ransom in two tranches.

Boa was stopped and snatched while driving his car in Sitio Putol, Barangay Taysan in San Jose, Batangas, on Jan. 17. He was brought by the kidnappers to a "safehouse."

Reyes said police set up checkpoints after learning of Boa's release on Thursday. Shortly after, a man aboard a motorcycle was stopped at one of the checkpoints and was held for possession of a .45-cal. pistol.

During interrogation, he confessed involvement in the abduction of Boa and led police to the hideouts of his cohorts, he said.

The suspects were not on the police list of kidnap gangs. At the time of their arrest, they were targeting prominent persons in Batangas, Reyes said.

In Batangas City, Supt. Rolando Lorenzo, provincial police director, said that "after Dr. Boa was released, we tracked the last call made by the kidnappers and caught them in Dolores, Quezon." ***With a report from Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Restoration of Amorsolo painting completed

By Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A 1955 painting of National Artist Fernando Amorsolo, which was stolen in 1998 and recovered that same year, is back in its old space at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center lobby, after four months of restoration work.

The 54-inch-by-78-inch painting, titled "Our Blessed Lord and Some of His Children," was restored by conservators from Pascon, a private group of art restorers.

The work was commissioned by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), according to Dr. Manuel Factora, hospital director.

Factora said the NCCA provided a P120,000 grant for the restoration and conservation of the art work, but he added that it released only P80,000.

The painting was badly damaged when it was stolen from the BGHMC lobby on May 12, 1998. It was returned to the hospital after art collector and former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office chair, Manuel Morato, "ransomed" it for P500,000 in June 1998.

Morato said an art dealer from Davao offered the masterpiece to him. The dealer, he said, tried to bring the painting to Switzerland and sell it there for P20 million. He delivered the painting to the BGHMC on June 21, 1998. He did not identify the dealer.

To raise more money for the restoration and preservation, the painting was displayed as an attraction in an art auction held at the hospital lobby in April 2000. The proceeds were used for framing the painting, Factora said.

The painting, now framed and protected with glass, was mounted on its original place near the main entrance of the hospital in December.

Factora said at least three art restorers came to the hospital from August to December last year to monitor the restoration work.

The painting's worth in 1955 was $450. In 1998, it was valued at between P15 million and P20 million.

"I don't exactly know how much the painting costs now. I am still waiting for the final report to be submitted to us by the NCCA," Factora said.

The painting, which took Amorsolo at least three years to finish, was authenticated by the NCCA last month. Factora, however, could not recall the names of the artists who participated in the restoration.

Fely Geslani, widow of Dr. Ireneo Geslani, the man who facilitated the donation of the painting to the BGHMC in 1956, was happy about the restoration.

AMOROSOLO'S "Our Blessed Lord and Some of His Children" is back on display at the lobby of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.
E.V. ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

"It was perfectly restored. I am also happy that they thought of protecting it by encasing it in a glass frame. Now, I can sleep well because I know it is safe," she said in a telephone interview.

George Bartter, a British-Anglican missionary, donated the painting to the hospital. The artwork was to be given to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, but Bartter changed his mind and gave it to the BGHMC instead through Geslani, his personal doctor.

Mrs. Geslani said the 1998 incident was not the first time the painting was taken out of BGHMC.

"Rumors came out that there were some people who tried to sell the painting even before it was stolen in 1998. But it was my (late) husband who knew about those attempts," she said.

Geslani and Leonora San Agustin, curator of the Baguio-Benguet Museum, planned to put up a foundation to protect and preserve the artwork.

Fish kill hits coastal town of Pangasinan

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—A massive fish kill hit this coastal town's fish cages where *bangus* (milkfish) is cultured, with millions worth of *bangus* turning belly-up early Friday.

Mayor Jesus Celeste said there was no damage estimate yet because the fish kill was ongoing.

Many operators of fish cages have been hastily harvesting their remaining stocks.

One operator with 10 fish cages lost about P4-million worth of *bangus*, while another operator lost about a P1-million worth, it was learned.

There are about 400 fish cages and 200 fish pens in Bolinao, but the most affected by the fish kill were those in Barangays Guiguiwanen and Luciente II.

Celeste said somebody could have poured a chemical that poisoned the *bangus*. White fluid was found in the fish cages, he said.

"Why was only one area affected if the cause was pollution? Why not the entire Bolinao?" he asked.

He sought the help of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute, which maintains a laboratory in the town, to examine the chemical that caused the fish kill.

The incident came in the wake of protests from residents about the proliferation of fish cages and pens in Bolinao.

In a letter to the municipal council, Margaret Celeste, elder sister of the mayor, noted that fish cages have been polluting the waters off Barangays Lambes, Zaragoza, Catungi, Tara, Culang, Luna and Luciente II, and parts of Barangays Luciente I and Lucero.

"The areas occupied by fish cages and pens have become polluted due to excessive concentration of fish feeds, and the water quality (there) has deteriorated," Margaret Celeste said.

She said the fish cages had exceeded the carrying capacity of the areas "which might affect our fishing industry, especially our reef areas in the near future."

The fish cages and pens have affected the navigational route for the residents of Santiago Island, especially at night, she said. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Nur seeks talk with GMA, asks Chavit for help

VIGAN CITY—Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said he would meet detained Moro leader Nur Misuari next week to listen to the latter's request for assistance and views and relay them to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I will listen to whatever he will say and relay it to all concerned, including President Macapagal-Arroyo," Singson said.

In a handwritten letter to Singson, Misuari, former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said he wished to discuss with Ms Macapagal the peace and order situation in Mindanao before it gets out of hand.

"I wish you (Singson) can push through with your visit so that we can exchange pleasantries and ideas on how to help this government forge peace and prosperity (for) our people," wrote Misuari, who is detained in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, on rebellion charges.

"And also, so that I can give suggestions to the President, through you, on how to solve the current Mindanao crisis before it develops into a full-blown war among our people," he added. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Cargo boat sinks off Albay; 5 passengers rescued, 1 missing

By Job Belen
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

STO. DOMINGO, Albay—Five people survived, while another was still missing when a cargo vessel sank in the Albay Gulf off this town on Thursday night.

Insp. Marlyn Abah, deputy police chief of the town, identified the missing person as Enrique Moral, 65, a bulldozer operator, of Camalig town, this province.

Abah said the identities of the survivors were not immediately reported to the authorities because they went directly to their employers.

Lucita Madarang, regional director of the Maritime Industry Authority, said the vessel, an LCT-8 landing craft, owned by Zaldy Co of Sunwest Construction in Legazpi City, was transporting a bulldozer.

Madarang said the vessel came from Barangay Buhatan here and was bound for Sula in the neighboring town of Bacacay when it sank some 300 meters off Barangay Alimsog.

Navy authorities were still searching the area for the missing passenger.

Madarang said the 19-ton vessel had just passed the "ad measurement" process imposed by Marina before it issues certificates of ownership and vessel registry.

She said the craft was supposed to sail at 5 a.m. Friday but it left on Thursday before Marina could check its inclining and load line stability.

In Sulu, a boat that was reported missing on Wednesday was sighted off an island near the province, the Philippine Coast Guard said yesterday. The boat had 13 passengers. The number of missing persons rose to 37 after the names of the motor launch's crew were included in the list.

Lt. Commander Peter Tinampay, chief of the PCG action center in Manila, said his office received a report from its Sulu station that the 13 survivors were sighted on either Taja or Pearl Bank islands, some 80 nautical miles west of Jolo.

"We received that report this morning. We're still trying to confirm it," Tinampay said.

The 13 persons sighted were alleged passengers of the 75-ton ML Sugar Diane-Z, which was reported missing somewhere in the waters of the Sulu Archipelago.

Tinampay said the boat, which was also carrying 700 sacks of copra, left Mapun Pier in Cagayan de Tawi-tawi for Zamboanga City at around 6 a.m. on Saturday.

At around 2 a.m. of Sunday, the crew radioed for help after it developed engine trouble some 50 nautical miles off Pangutaran Island.

Authorities later lost radio contact with the vessel. The boat's owner sent a sister vessel, the ML Sugar Diane-E, to search for the boat.

Navy patrol boats and Philippine Air Force OV-10 planes nave also joined the search. ***With reports from Philip Tubeza Jr. in Manila***

SAY AHHH. Mayor Rodrigo Duterte coaches a child during the "Balik Patak" anti-polio immunization program in Davao City's Agdao District on Thursday.
RYAN B. LIM/ PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Army declares ceasefire for polio immunization

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Guns will be silent for the massive polio immunization drive in Western Visayas.

The Army has agreed to declare an "unofficial ceasefire" to support the national immunization of all children, aged five and below, to be conducted by the Department of Health on Feb. 4-8 and March 4-8.

The campaign aims to flush out the existence of wild polio virus in the country.

Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial, assistant director of the DOH regional field office, said the Army's 3rd Infantry Division based in Jamindan, Capiz, had promised not to launch offensives against communist insurgents during the immunizations days.

The Army has also offered to transport the vaccines and escort health personnel to far-flung areas in Iloilo, Antique, Capiz, Aklan and Negros Occidental.

"With the unofficial ceasefire, New People's Army guerrillas can bring their children to local health units and get oral polio vaccines," said Ubial.

The government has declared a "national health emergency" due to three cases of acute flaccid paralysis among partially immunized children.

The paralysis was due to a vaccine-like polio virus, whose mutation was triggered by the wild polio virus that was isolated in Cavite and Laguna and Cagayan de Oro last July and September.

The last national immunization drive took place from 1993 to 1997. The Philippines, along with 36 countries in the Western Pacific, was declared "polio-free" in October 2000 by the World Health Organization.

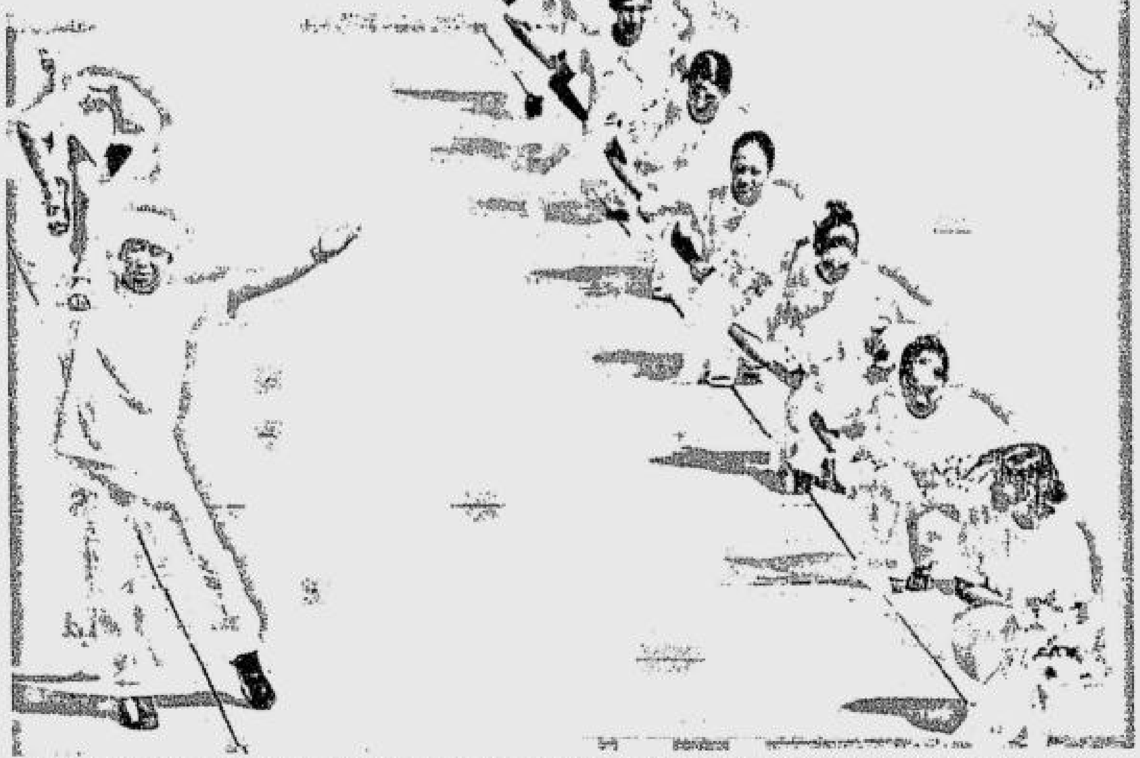
The emergence of the mutant virus last year threatened the country's mark and may stall the global bid to eliminate polio by 2005.

Poliomyelitis has been successfully eliminated in the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Australia and parts of the Western Pacific. It has yet to be eradicated in Africa and the Indian sub-continent.

No virus has yet been isolated in Western Visayas, but health personnel said they did not want to lower their guard.

They targeted full coverage of children aged five and below by using the door-to-door approach. The method was among the reasons the region sustained an 87-percent immunization coverage in the past.

INQUIRER Visayas
Jun Bandayrel, Editor ■ Edralyn L. Benedicto, Bureau Chief



IN T-SHIRTS and slacks, members of the Sandiego Dance Troupe perform at the "Sinulog 2002" festival's grand parade. JUNJIE MENDOZA

They just can't stop dancing for Sto. Niño

By Debra Jane V. Magallon
Cebu City

EXACTLY a year ago today, the Inquirer Visayas featured the awesome dancing prowess of the Sandiego Dance Troupe, whose performance is being looked forward to by every Cebuano during the yearly "Sinulog Festival."

Ever since the group won the grand prize in the Sinulog-based dance category in 1994, it has become part of the Sinulog tradition. Its costumes were always a visual delight, and everyone would often ask, "What will the Sandiego Dance Troupe wear this time?"

Val Sandiego, the group's choreographer and manager, had said that dancing in the grand parade, held every third Sunday of January, was more than just taking part in the festivity. It was, he said, his group's way of venerating the Señor Sto. Niño.

"Dancing," he had stressed, "is the greatest form of prayer."

How time has changed in just a year!

On Jan. 20, when the Sandiego Dance Troupe entered the Cebu City Sports Center to perform in the grand parade, there were no lusty cheers.

The crowd, almost 15,000 of them on the grandstand, was totally silent. Some of the people were even in tears.

Nobody ever thought that the group, whose name was synonymous with exquisite costumes, wore only white T-shirts and pants, and brought only white candles, flowers and handkerchiefs as props.

Two days earlier, on Jan. 18, tragedy struck the Sandiego home.

A fire broke out at the stockroom of the dance studio inside the family compound at Capitol Site in Cebu City. It leaped to the nearby 50-year-old home of the Sandiegos and, in minutes, reduced it and all its contents to ashes.

Surmounting tragedy

Everything was gone—all the exquisite costumes accumulated over the years, including the all-white ensemble that the dance troupe was supposed to wear this year.

Nobody ever thought that such a tragic incident could happen to the Sandiego family, whose devotion to the Sto. Niño is beyond question.

"I just ended a phone call to my uncle who is based in the United States when a brownout occurred. Then the workers started shouting. I knew something was wrong," a teary-eyed Val recalled.

"In 10 minutes, everything was gone," he said, referring to all his family's belongings, including collections of statues of saints and porcelains that date back to the Ming Dynasty.

"It's like I've experienced death already," Val, 39, said.

Fire investigators said faulty electrical wiring caused one transformer to explode and start the fire.

But no tragedy could stop Val and his wife Ofelia from dancing during the Sinulog.

BEFORE the Jan. 18 fire that destroyed their studio, the dancers used to be known for their elaborately designed costumes. FILE PHOTO

Having already won three times, the Sandiego Dance Troupe is no longer part of the competition but the flag bearers of Cebu. Its presentation is the Sandiego family's way of observing a yearly "*panata*" (vow) to offer a dance-prayer to the Sto. Niño.

Unknown to many, the Sandiego dancers do not just perform to regale the festival crowd. In their costume are tucked prayer intentions that people request Val, Ofelia and the other dancers to carry. The notes seek miracles from the Sto. Niño.

Not to dance because their costumes were gone did not enter the minds of the members. It would just break the hearts of people who have trusted them so much.

On the very night after the fire, in the midst of the debris of the Sandiego home, Val and Ofelia gathered their dancers and told them that they should push through with their performance, even if this time they will only be clad in T-shirts and denim pants.

The next day, the Sandiego dancers joined the fluvial procession. They performed the traditional Sinulog dance (two steps forward, one step backward, simulating the current or *sulog* of Cebu's Pahina River, to the beat of drums). They wore T-shirts donated by the telecommunications company Smart.

Humbling experience

When Msgr. Cris Garcia of the Cebu Archdiocese acknowledged their group, Val, Ofelia and their dancers were so overwhelmed that they cried. Yet they did not skip a beat as they danced their way to the Basilica del Sto. Niño.

The dancers may have lost the studio as their second home, but they were thankful that their second family was safe and sound.

And when the grand parade came, they realized how much the people have come to love them.

"The people we passed by during the parade would tell us that they were praying for us, and it really touched me so much," Val said.

It was also the first time that the 75-year-old Sandiego matriarch, Luz Mancao-Sandiego, joined them in the parade.

For the Sandiegos, the experience was very humbling. As Val would put it, "The Lord wanted us to be examples for the other contingents. Grand costumes and costly paraphernalia's would not matter. It is your sincerity to dance the Sinulog."

When the drums rolled and the dancers carefully executed the steps, the Sandiego Dance Troupe displayed the true Cebuano spirit of piety and perseverance, and exuded the true essence of the dance-prayer to the revered Sto. Niño.

Tears fell as they danced. The audience at the sports center and those who were watching the live telecast at their homes could not help but cry with them.

After the performance, when they heard the loudest applause from the crowd, they knew that they had won more than just the grand prize. It was a miracle from above.

Give Gloria a break

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

I AM no great fan of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, but fair is fair.

I had a dose of her lecture-type tone of voice when she was senator and was guest of honor of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Bacolod City. I had just written for the Visayan Daily Star that a big problem of Negros was the declining tariff on imported sugar, which was a result of the Asean Free Trade Agreement (Afta) that GMA, then a senator, had asked the sugar farmers to support. I wrote that column without the promised safety nets in place; the sugar industry was doomed.

In her speech, she acknowledged my presence as a former mayor of Cadiz City although I was not introduced. Then she talked about Afta, rebutting my arguments in my column. She remarked that "those of us who know our international law" would know that getting into Afta was good for the country.

Did I take that against her? No. That meant that she was listening to issues in our province, and she met it head-on. Without the "*karinyo*" (which is an Ilonggo trait), she was lacking in personal touch, one could say. But I listened to her not only as a senator but also as an economist, and I understood. Besides, if I can dish it out, I should be able to take it.

But other people take GMA's intelligence against her. They complain that she acts like she knows it all. Is there any President who doesn't think he or she knows it all? Even Erap thought he knew it all, even if he was reading from an idiot board. Can we expect less from a president who has a doctorate in economics?

GMA may not have delivered the number of jobs she promised, but after only eight months in office, her performance has not exactly been a disaster. The country had a decent growth rate and a slight increase in employment despite a global recession.

Of all the presidents since 1986, she is the best trained for the job and could be the best of them. The world is in for hard times. The challenge for GMA is triple, for the people expect her to deliver against gigantic odds.

But that isn't enough for people who criticize her for lack of charisma and leadership. Industrialist Jose Concepcion faults GMA for not being a charismatic leader, calling her a mere economic manager. What he is saying is she is good enough as an economic manager but isn't good enough as a president. But where did he get his standards?

This is the 21st century and the world is in a recession. The charismatic leader model is obsolete. It is a model that is defined by men and exemplified by men. It is personality-oriented, which cultivates that same weakness in our political culture that we should eliminate. We are stuck in personality politics, which is why structural reforms are difficult to achieve. No one person, no matter how much charisma she has, can solve the country's problems, now if she doesn't have the brains and industry for the job. Those two things GMA has.

The charismatic leader who will lead us "out of Egypt" will fail if she doesn't know economics. Why do businessmen require charisma in a leader? Are they not themselves already full of charisma as they define it? If the President had charisma, will everybody in government do his job well?

What we need is a no-nonsense President who will instill discipline and honesty in public servants. The tradeoff there is that she won't be nice to everyone.

I think one problem is our lack of respect for who GMA is. People have a mindset about how a President should be. Why don't we just take Gloria for what she is as long as she does a good job. As a friend would put it, "I don't care what she does to get the job done, short of cruel or unusual punishment of her Cabinet and staff."

In contrast, the poor don't care if the President isn't nice to people who work around her. If fact, they want her, as Jim Paredes puts it, to "kick ass." They care only that they need jobs and food on their table.

Politicians, on the other hand, have a need to be recognized by GMA. They want a firm handshake, a five-second look in the eye. Gloria probably doesn't have five seconds and doesn't chat, and a handshake from a petite woman just won't do for many men.

Let's be frank. Many men can't take it that the President is a woman, and a woman with extraordinary intelligence. GMA is studious, talks straight and gives a smirk as easily as she can give a smile. She is transparent.

An editorial commented on her "womanly growl." When past male Presidents displayed bad manners and used cuss words, were they entitled to that because they were men? But a woman, even when she is loaded with the problems of the country, should not show anger and frustration? Give me a break.

Give Gloria a break. The woman works very hard. Instead of criticizing her for her lack of warm personality, why don't we just all do our job well. Look at the non-government organizations and genuine people's organizations. They work no matter who the President is. They are not waiting for a charismatic president to solve the problems of people who need their help.

By all means, criticize her, but stick to issues. Ms President, where are the jobs you promised? Why aren't you appointing more women decision-makers in the government?

At least, nobody is saying that GMA doesn't listen, which is an indispensable leadership trait. One doesn't need charisma for that.

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Lawyers ask SC to stop RP-US war games

From page A1

games.

"Respondents have violated the Constitution and have acted without or in excess of their jurisdiction, or with grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction," the lawyers said. "There is no appeal or any other plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law."

The lawyers noted the President's earlier statement that "only communists are opposing the presence of the Americans." They said that in filing the petition, they were "certainly not communists" or "leftists or rightists."

"(We) do not pretend to be nationalists either," they said, adding that they were ordinary citizens from Mindanao "entitled to protest the unwarranted expenditure of public funds in an illegal activity, no matter how laudable the purpose may seem for the moment."

Lim is now also counsel for Moro leader Nur Misuari, who is being detained on rebellion charges at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

His and Ersando's petition basically contained the arguments earlier raised by sectors and groups opposing the Balikatan.

The lawyers said the "unprecedented" deployment of US soldiers in Mindanao was part of the "much-vaunted US-led war on alleged global terrorism" to stamp out the Abu Sayyaf menace, which, they claimed, was a purely domestic peace and order problem.

Beyond 6 months

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces spokesperson, yesterday hinted that the military was open to extending the conduct of the Balikatan beyond the six-month period.

He said extension was an option that "would be agreed upon" by the US and the Philippine governments.

"This is an offer of assistance that the Philippine government accepts," he said. "If we accept offers, and both parties agree, then things will happen. It's up to us."

When she issued her 10 policy guidelines on the conduct of the Balikatan last Saturday, the President declared that the military exercise would last for only six months.

Adan also confirmed the statement of US charge d' affaires Robert Fitts that four Balikatan exercises were scheduled this year. He said a series of joint military exercises scheduled for the next five years had been planned a year ago.

Asked if it was possible for the exercises to overlap, Adan said: "I don't know. It will depend on the resources."

Adan also disputed Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's claim Thursday that US military commanders were allowed to take unilateral actions under the rules of engagement for the Balikatan.

"What the rules provide is that (in case of threat) the commander can only use minimum force to restore the situation, can't pursue a hostile force outside the exercise area, can't use deadly force in response to non-lethal threats and can't use warning shots," Adan said.

He said the same rules had been used for joint military exercises for the past 15 years.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez also took issue with Biazon and insisted that US soldiers in the Balikatan could not act independently of their Filipino commanders.

He said they reviewed the proposed terms of reference (TOR) of the military exercise as well as Biazon's comment, "and we could not see anything that mentions the word 'unilateral.'"

"So we cannot see any interpretation that would mean unilateral action on the US part, except in a very extreme situation," he added.

Salute

In Zamboanga City, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu is being hounded by this question: Is it proper for American forces not to salute Philippine military officials?

Reporters raised the question after observing that some US soldiers did not salute Cimatu when they met him at the lobby of the Southcom headquarters.

But Cimatu said soldiers did not need to salute officers inside a building. "That's the policy," he said. "Once you are within the premises or in a building, you don't need to salute an officer."

A total of 217 US servicemen are now in Zamboanga City and engaged in the familiarization process, according to Maj. Cynthia Teramae, spokesperson of the RP-US Combined Information Bureau (CIB) for the Balikatan.

The familiarization process involves walking around the Southcom headquarters.

In contrast to their American counterparts, Filipino soldiers spent the day filling up questionnaires.

It was not clear what were the questions asked, but Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, chief of the Joint Task Force Comet, said the time-pressure test was part of a screening process.

Teramae told reporters that the training proper could take place next week because the US servicemen were still "trying to fix everything here."

She said most of the questions being asked by the soldiers involved "laundry, food, sleeping quarters, and how to avail (themselves) of toiletries."

One of the first rules to be handed down was that the US soldiers would not be allowed outside their quarters for safety purposes.

Cimatu said the military had addressed this issue by identifying who would be responsible for what.

"(We) hope they will understand us," Cimatu said. "Their security is our concern, so they are not allowed to go outside during the day or night. (Their) food, laundry and other things are properly taken care off."

Oversight committee

Sen. Francis Pangilinan urged Congress to immediately convene the oversight committee of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement even as he warned of a possible eruption of violence between the Abu Sayyaf and the US troops in Mindanao.

The bicameral VFA oversight committee monitors and oversees all joint military exercises dubbed as Balikatan.

"So much has been said about Balikatan 2002, and our people are in a quandary as to what this joint military exercise is all about," Pangilinan said. "We must draw up a comprehensive plan and make all matters pertaining to the Balikatan clear and ensure that these are not inimical to our national interest."

Pangilinan's call was contained in Senate Resolution 221, which he filed yesterday.

Sen. Blas Ople said his committee on foreign relations would look into the apparent schism in the making of foreign policy when it resumes public hearings on the Balikatan on Thursday.

Ople said both Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona and former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo would be invited to the hearing.

He said the reported schism in the making of foreign policy was material to the amendments to the Foreign Service Act of 1991 being drafted by his committee.

"The Senate is keen to know the processes involved in the making of foreign policy and to determine whether they meet the test of accountability under the Constitution," he said.

Ople was referring to persistent reports that the President was taking advice on the Balikatan not from the Department of Foreign Affairs but from Romulo, her adviser on international competitiveness.

Reyes

The heat is on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, with the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) calling for his resignation over the Balikatan.

Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said Reyes was the reason the public was being kept in the dark on the real nature of the military exercises.

Casiño noted Fitts' statement confirming that several other war games had already been planned for the year.

"Once again, the (Philippine) government's claim that the Balikatan was not part of the US all-out war against terror has been belied. Clearly, the US is here for combat training operations, and not for mere military exercises," Casiño said during a forum at the University of the Philippines.

"Either Reyes is conniving with the US government in preventing a public outcry to impede the Balikatan or he is so incompetent that he cannot assert our national sovereignty in front of the US officials," Casiño added. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Cynthia D. Balana, Agnes E. Donato and Juliet L. Javellana in Manila; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Ground . . .

From page A1

Asked if their list of suspects included terrorist groups, Golez grinned and said: "We're not ruling out anybody."

Possible violation

The plane and its crew of seven were taking part in the "Balance Piston" exercise, which is focused on special operations and counter-terrorism.

The low-level exercise is being conducted at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

But the Thursday flight could have been a violation of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

Another US official told reporters that there were no Filipino military pilots among the crew, indicating that the flight was a unilateral one.

Unilateral flights are not allowed under the VFA. The Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed such violations by the US military in a report it had submitted to Malacañang.

PAF officials, however, said Filipino pilots were also in the MC-130. They did not say who and how many the pilots were.

But a well-placed source who spoke on condition of anonymity said, "no Filipino pilot or soldier was on board the aircraft."

"The US Air Force has been doing the flying exercises for its own good because there are no mountains in Okinawa, where the US bases are located," the source said.

Despite the incident, Golez said the US troops involved in Balance Piston would not restrict their movements.

"It's a matter of concern, but it's not a cause for alarm (for the Americans) so it will not affect their movements," he said.

No-fly zones

Ambassador Jaime Yambao, executive director of the VFA Commission, also said the Balance Piston exercise would "not be affected" by the shooting, which he described as "an isolated case."

Nevertheless, the VFACom and military authorities yesterday declared the Kalinga-Apayao mountains and the most populated areas as "no-fly zones."

Agence France Presse also quoted Yambao as saying that the 400-odd US troops had been "ordered to remain inside the base as a result of the shooting incident."

The flying exercises are being conducted all over Luzon, including the Sierra Madre and Caraballo mountain ranges.

Warning

Last week, the NPA warned the US and the Philippine governments against conducting military exercises. It said US soldiers would be attacked if they stayed near or approached rebel strongholds.

Both Soledad and Col. Charles Hotchkiss, deputy commander of the 660th Air Base Wing in Clark, said the shots at the plane could have been fired from somewhere in Mt. Province in the Cordillera.

Soledad, a multi-awarded pilot, recalled that PAF planes engaged in combat missions in insurgent strongholds in Mt. Province and Cagayan Valley had also been shot at.

He said four were seriously damaged during counter-insurgency operations in the Marag Valley during the early 1990s.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan earlier tried to downplay the report that a US military plane had been fired upon in Northern Luzon.

"We're still checking the veracity of the report," he told reporters. "We already called up the US Embassy officials, but they also could not confirm it."

But when told that the Pentagon had confirmed the report, Adan changed his tune.

"We don't know where it happened," he said. "Northern Luzon is so far and wide. They just saw the bullet holes when (the plane) landed."

Agence France Presse also quoted police as saying there were conflicting accounts that the shooting might have been carried out by a local tribesman using a homemade rifle for unknown reasons. ***With reports from Christine Herrera and TJ Burgonio in Manila; AFP***

It's a bird; it's a toy; it's RP spy plane . . .

From page A1

a video camera, the five aircraft form the first squadron of the Philippine Army's UAV.

"We used local ingenuity. We utilized what were readily available, cheap and reliable. The other parts like RF boosters (a band selective device) and amplifiers are manufactured here. This is a joint effort with the Mapua Institute of Technology, which made some of the electrical components," said Col. Ricardo Morales, head of Army research.

Th only things that were imported were the video cameras, Morales said.

The aircraft cost P250,000 each and the system that runs them cost P1 million, an extremely cheap alternative to the $200-million US-made Predator or even the low-end aerial surveillance systems which cost about P30 million each.

Like toy planes

The Army UAVs look a lot like model airplanes that are controlled by a remote device. The UAVs, however, are a bit bigger and are painted a camouflage color.

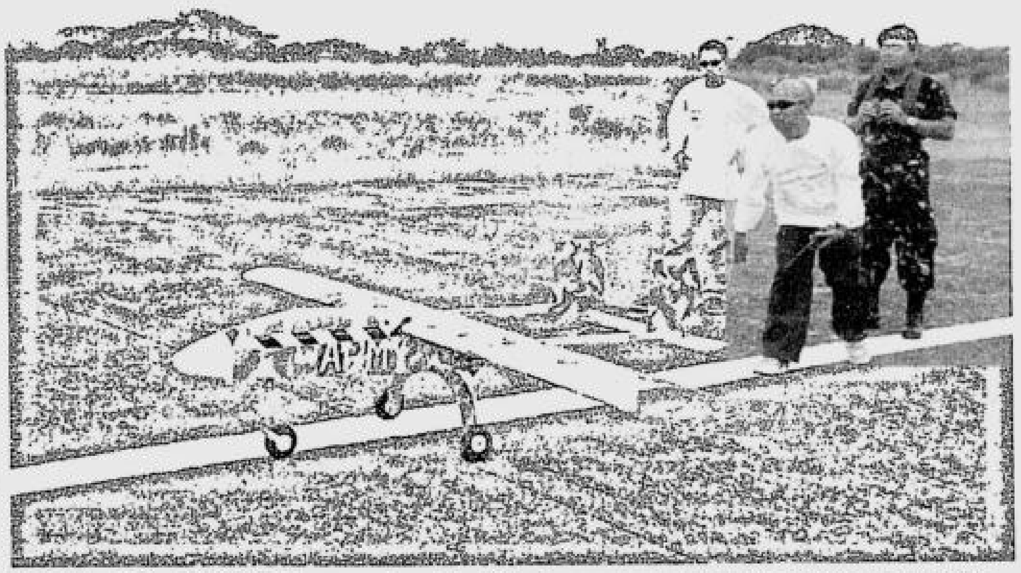
Each aircraft has a wingspan of 120 inches and a length of 50 inches. It has a 40 cc two-stroke gasoline-powered engine and carries a closed circuit video camera, the lens of which is fixed. It has a take off weight of 30 lbs. It can fly up to 5,000 feet for up to two hours at a speed of 50-80 knots.

Yesterday, Assunta flew around a small airstrip here and sent images taken by the mounted camera to a monitor on the ground.

"We can do better map-making, better territorial reconnaissance and traffic monitoring," Mapua said.

It can also be used to save the lives of soldiers who otherwise would have to reconnoiter in ambush-prone areas, he said.

Morales said the UAVs could also be used for civilian applications like identifying red tide areas, illegal logging and forest fires.



MADE in RP for P250,000: Unmanned aerial vehicle is presented at Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

Morales toyed with the idea of developing the UAVs five years ago to meet the Army's need for real-time intelligence.

"The Air Force could not meet our requirements. We wanted to look at the ground but ground surveillance was a low priority," Morales said.

"They don't have enough airplanes. This is a cost-effective way of doing it," he added.

Problems

For now, its creators admitted that the prototypes could not yet be used in the field because kinks still have to be worked out.

The plane named Alessandra crash-landed the other day.

Morales said they needed more time and funding to perfect the system but he added that they could be deployed in six months if the funding could be generated and if the tests continued.

"I need better electronics like gyroscopes, better auto-pilot, and silent muffler (to suppress the sound of the grass cutter engine)," Mapua said.

But he said the cost could double if they improved the cameras and electronics.

For now, the prototypes can only be used in daytime because they do not have infrared capability yet.

"We can add that later on, we will only need a sensor," Morales said, adding that it might cost them another million.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime delos Santos said the planes would be deployed in Basilan "eventually."

Dogs, too

The Army also plans to use bloodhounds against the Abu Sayyaf bandits who are hiding in the dense Basilan forests.

"The Army organized this team after seeing the difficulty of tracking down the terrorists who were said to be just running circles around pursuing troops," said Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr.

Four bloodhounds costing P250,000 each were trained by an American trainer for four months for "scent-trailing" and "scent discrimination."

A team, composed of five men and a dog, went through the paces yesterday before the Army chief and successfully tracked down an "Abu Sayyaf" quarry.

K-9 tracking teams were successfully utilized against the Hukbalahap during the 1950s.

Talk . . .

From page A1

author of a study of the economic impact of the flu, said Hong Kong's residents had to realize that their voluble habits were leaving them vulnerable to infection.

The study found that flu had struck down 60 percent of Hong Kong workers at least once last year and Chan said infections were typically contracted after a virus took hold by lodging in the throat and airways.

Smoking and over-active social lives contributed to the chronic rate of infection in Hong Kong but chat was the primary culprit, the professor said.

"The worst thing to do is to speak very loudly and too long," he told the South China Morning Post.

"It is common in Hong Kong because there is too much background noise. You go to restaurants and people talk so loudly."

Hong Kongers' love of a good natter is legendary. As well as the noisiest restaurants, the former British colony boasts the highest penetration of mobile phones on the planet.

This phenomenon has given rise to the Cantonese expression *"po tin wah cheuk"*—literally to talk like boiling porridge on the phone. ***AFP***

Baguio judge exposes 'hoodlums in robes'

From page A1

uproar because we don't know how these conflicts will affect our pending cases. This is serious because (Ayson's order) discussed problems of a criminal and an ethical nature," a trial lawyer said.

Ayson enumerated a series of anomalies that allegedly implicated Executive Judge Antonio Reyes and Judges Clarence Villanueva, Amado Caguioa and Edilberto Claravall in a five-page order that addressed a simple property case.

He accused one of the judges of concealing an adulterous affair and a child out-of-wedlock, and discussed how another judge tolerated the collection of stenographer fees in the course of processing *ex-parte* hearings that involved cases as small as changing birth names.

Ayson also suggested that another judge had been gathering a lion's share of cases involving wealthy litigants.

At one point, Ayson accused unnamed judges of gambling and drinking, and argued that he made the revelations because "it is time to clean the judiciary of the corrupt and immoral."

2 options

Caguioa said he has yet to see the order. "I was told about the order. I do not understand why it was done that way. I don't even understand why he is complaining against us. There are certain parties now preparing a libel case against him. The judges are now divided into two options: we can ignore Ayson, or we can ask him to explain what this is all about," Caguioa said.

"His accusations were unfair. They were made to disparage a colleague about his personal life. It included names of people who were not even involved, and (Ayson) presented charges he cannot possibly prove. I have talked to the other judges and we will wait next week for his (Ayson's) further actions," he said.

Lawyer Robert Fangayen, city legal counsel, told the INQUIRER on Wednesday that he was flabbergasted when the Ayson order was included in his case folder last week.

Fangayen is defending Mayor Bernardo Vergara and three other city officials in a civil suit filed by Espirita and Santiago Malecdan, whose property is threatened by demolition.

The civil case was initially raffled off to Ayson on Jan. 21, but the judge inhibited himself and cited his close association with Vergara.

Executive Judge Reyes rejected Ayson's offer to inhibit.

Ayson then filed the second order on Jan. 25, which already included his exposés.

'Matter of conscience'

In the order, Ayson said Vergara had recommended him "for the position of justice of the Court of Appeals," which act made it only proper for him to inhibit himself as a matter of "conscience."

Ayson also chastised Reyes for questioning his decision to inhibit himself from the property suit.

"What surprises and puzzles me is that I already inhibited myself in the case at bar ... and yet it is returned for action as it is denied by the executive judge. I wonder why (Reyes) should deny my inhibition when I stated the reason very clearly ... Is it because the executive judge ... resents my not attending the Wednesday morning meetings or coffee breaks at 10:30 a.m.?" Ayson noted.

The practice had been an informal means of "interaction" among judges, and did not take more than 10 minutes each day, Caguioa told the INQUIRER. "It should not have offended him (Ayson)," he said.

Ayson used his statements on the coffee break to peg his discussion of the anomalies among his fellow judges. Their anomalies, he said, had prevented him from joining their weekly meetings.

"It is a well-known fact that ... (a Baguio judge) . . has a wife and a mistress. He has a child by his mistress ... Judge Caguioa admitted in my presence that he is the godfather of the child of (this judge) by his mistress," Ayson said in the order.

"Some lawyers are saying that selected cases are raffled to (Reyes) like the three Ilusorio cases, the Jadewell case, the Henry Lao case, (and) the Munsayac case (references to prominent suits involving rich Baguio-based families). I understand Ramon Ilusorio field a complaint against Judge Reyes in connection with the Ilusorio cases. Also, one of the Munsayacs filed a complaint against Judge Reyes in connection with the Munsayac case," Ayson said.

Ayson said another judge "allowed ex-parte hearings to be conducted by a non-lawyer clerk, not his clerk of court, and stenographer where commissioner's fees were collected ... despite the Supreme Court circular stating that there is no basis for collecting commissioners' fees in ex-parte hearings."

The order also referred to a third judge who was involved in a traffic mishap while on a judges' convention in 1998 in Manila.

"And yet (the judge) told the security guard (near the hotel where the accident had occurred) that the name of the driver was Judge Ruben Ayson when I was not even there," Ayson said.

The hotel's chief security called Ayson on the convention floor about this and "I was shocked and humiliated," he said.

"It is known that some judges (indulge in) gambling and drinking. I need not name the judges concerned. I have seen this myself. For all these reasons, I hope the executive judge would understand why I am avoiding the meetings or coffee breaks on Wednesday mornings in view of my past experiences with them," he pointed out.

Fangayen said the Malecdan case was finally raffled to Judge Antonio Esteves, who proceeded with the case last Monday.

Ayson declined to comment on his order when the INQUIRER reached him at his office on Friday. He said he would issue a formal statement next week to "clear up" the matter.

Taguig bids to join MBA

TAGUIG formalized its intention of joining the Metropolitan Basketball Association yesterday with Mayor Freddie Tinga spearheading the move. Tinga conferred with Ramon Tuason, MBA director for business and marketing, and bared his town's bid to put up a team for the league's fifth season starting on April 6.

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ■ Edwin M. Villanueva, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.) on Star Sports NBA - New York Knicks vs Indiana Pacers at 8 a.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.) on Star Sports, LA Clippers vs San Antonio Spurs at 2:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN US NCAA - Louisville vs Memphis at 11:30 a.m. (r), Duke vs North Carolina at 5 p.m. on ESPN

DHL-NGAP AMATEURS

Dizon pockets record 7-shot victory

By Jong Arcano

MARLON Dizon needs only to look back to Year 2000 to know what a victory at Canlubang can do for him.

"I can smell something big again," Dizon said moments after running roughshod of the opposition yesterday with a record-breaking seven-stroke victory over Angelo Que (73) in the DHL-NGAP Amateur Open at Canlubang North.

The 25-year-old Dizon, playing out of Wack Wack, blasted the giants to bits with an eight-under 280 aggregate, capping his four-under-par 68 with a chip-in birdie on the 72nd hole.

But Carmelette Villaroman's trek to a third straight ladies title in the event sponsored by DHL with the support of Wide Wide World Express didn't come easy.

Making up for her absence in the Philippine Ladies Open, Villaroman nipped jungolf sensation Jayvie Agojo in a sudden-death playoff, winning with a regulation par on the third extra hole.

But Agojo, 15, lost in style, sinking a downhill chip from 30 yards for bogey on said hole.

Que and two-day leader Juami Rocha stumbled early and Dizon was quick to capitalize on their miscues.

Rocha was the first to fall when he double-bogeyed two of the first two holes.

Then Que made 5 on the par-3 sixth after gambling to hit a plugged ball out of the hazard.

Que finished second at 287, with Cookie La'O taking third at 289 after a 73.

Norman shares lead with 67

MELBOURNE—Former world number one Greg Norman carded a five-under-par 67 in the second round of the Heineken Classic on Friday to share the lead with South African Ernie Els and Welshman Mark Pilkington on eight-under overall.

Pilkington was two-under for the day through 16 holes at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club. World number five Els, the overnight leader, was level par for the day after five holes. *Reuters*

DIZON: Blasted the giants to bits. ROMY HOMILLADA

Hapee Team B is PBA's 10th squad

No foreign stint for Asiad-bound quintet—Bernardino

NO foreign stint, just international scouting for the Philippine basketball team bound for the Busan Asian Games in September.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino bared this yesterday during the formal acceptance of Hapee Toothpaste's sponsorship of Team B of the candidates pool for the quadrennial games.

Bernardino and Cecilio K. Pedro, president and CEO of Lamoiyan Corp., maker of Hapee Toothpaste, signed the memorandum of agreement at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Also present were PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, PBL chair Dioceldo Sy, deputy commissioner Tommy Ong and board member Raul Panlilio.

Bernardino said as far as he knows no foreign stint for the candidates pool has been scheduled by the national coaching staff headed by Jong Uichico. He bared, however, that Uichico is likely to send his deputies abroad to scout the top contenders in the region.

Pedro said Hapee's sponsorship is an affirmation of Lamoiyan's commitment to support Philippine sports, especially in basketball where its team has emerged champion thrice in the PBL.

The sponsorship package for the Governor's Cup, which begins on Feb. 10, is going to cost Lamoiyan Corp. at least P15 million. Selecta of the RFM Corporation will sponsor Team A.

Back-to-back MVP Danny Ildefonso will banner Hapee, which will also have the Seigle brothers Danny and Andy, Boyet Fernandez, Noy Castillo, Renren Ritualo, Jeffrey Cariaso, Don Camaso, Rudy Hatfield, Mick Pennisi, Marlou Aquino, Davonn Harp, EJ Feihl and Romel Adducul. Adducul's stint in the candidates pool is still under negotiation between the PBA and the MBA.

Pedro also announced the appointment of veteran sportscaster Emy Arcilla as team manager and company representative to the PBA board. *Roy Luarca*

Jordan seals Wizards' 93-92 win with jumper

CLEVELAND —Michael Jordan did it to Cleveland again, hitting an 5.5-meter (18-foot) jump shot at the fulltime buzzer Thursday to give the Washington Wizards a 93-92 win over the Cavaliers. **COMPLETE RESULTS** Washington 93, Cleveland 92; New Jersey 125, Milwaukee 100; Toronto 97, Boston 92; L.A. Clippers 91, San Antonio 87; Dallas 95, Houston 91; Sacramento 99, Seattle 95; Portland 105, Phoenix 97. *AP*

Shark eyes 3rd straight win

(Best-of-seven)
Game One Shark 80 Welcoat 79 (OT)
Game Two Shark 67 Welcoat 58

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
1:30 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Kutitap (for 3rd)
3:30 p.m.—Shark vs Welcoat (championship)

By Dennis U. Eroa

LOOKING invincible after two games, titleholder Shark Energy Drink shoots for its third straight win against sliding Welcoat Paints in the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven championship series today at the Makati Coliseum.

Despite carrying a 2-0 lead, coach Leo Austria remains guarded regarding Shark's bid of winning its second crown over an opponent which humiliated them in two previous conferences.

"We cannot afford a Welcoat comeback. If we win Game Three, I can very well tell you that this series is more or less over. It's back to square one if we lose," Austria told the INQUIRER yesterday during Shark's three-hour practice at the Makati Coliseum.

The third game is set at 3:30 p.m., 30 minutes earlier than the usual schedule. The 1:30 p.m. curtain-raiser pits ICTSI-La Salle and Kutitap Toothpaste, with the winner winning third place.

"The mental weight for Welcoat is going to be tremendous if it falls behind by three games. I feel that a 3-0 lead will be a big insurance for us," said team owner Raul Panlilio, who watched yesterday's practice.

Shark looked relaxed but determined in practice. Playmaker Warren Ybañez and Ervin Sotto, credited for Shark's surge in the series, Ysmael Junio, Rysal Castro, Rolly Basilides, Chester Tolomia and Clarence Cole joked with each other but listened intently as Austria gave instructions.

Playmaker Michael Robinson was also being given extra attention by the coaching staff with the expected Welcoat focus on the slippery Ybañez.

"Welcoat has the maturity and talent to turn the game around. We're ahead, but it's not yet over. Right now, the team is following the system which I believed is very effective. I'm confident that the team can sustain its intensity and be matured enough to hurdle Welcoat's challenge, Austria said.

YBAÑEZ: heart and soul of Shark's offense.

We'll monitor Talk N Text games—Narvasa

THE BASKETBALL Coaches Association of the Philippines yesterday vowed to monitor all the games of Talk N Text in the 2002 PBA season.

BCAP president Chito Narvasa feared the Phone Pals' management might circumvent a Department of Labor edict banning foreign coaches to call the shots for a PBA team.

Talk N Text hired American coach Bill Bayno as one of its consultants but has yet to formalize the naming of the former University of Las Vegas-Nevada head coach as the Phone Pals' chief mentor.

"I must see to it that Talk N Text does not take the Dole ruling for granted. Mr. Bayno is allowed to sit on the bench during the games but he will be prohibited to orchestrate the plays," said Narvasa.

In 1998, the labor department declared a ruling preventing foreign coaches from taking over the headcoaching job of any professional basketball team as it robs local coaches a source of livelihood.

It stemmed from the case of Ron Jacobs who served as San Miguel Beer headcoach in 1997. The BCAP protested to the ascension of Jacobs, pointing out that there were local coaches who deserved to be on his shoes.

The following season Jong Uichico, Jacobs' deputy, took over the coaching reins in San Miguel Beer.

"We already laid down the parameters. We will always fight any plans to put a foreign coach in the league," said Narvasa.

Talk N Text, however, will be given a chance to present the setup of its coaching staff before the BCAP board of directors, he added.

"I can't give any compromise. I cannot decide unilaterally on these things because the final decision of the BCAP emanates from its board of directors," said Narvasa. *June Navarro*

RP thinking of hosting Lewis-Tyson

MANILA—The Philippines may bid to host the fight between world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis and controversial challenger Mike Tyson in Manila this year, a senior official said Friday.

The April 6 fight, originally set in Las Vegas, has been on hold since Tuesday when the Nevada State Athletic Commission denied Tyson a license to fight in the state.

Lewis is the World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation champion.

"We are studying that," Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon told local radio when asked whether the country would consider hosting the match.

The Philippines played host to the "Thrilla in Manila" heavyweight bout between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier on October 1, 1975. *AFP*

Ali appeals to kidnappers

WASHINGTON—In a message released Thursday, former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali urged the captors of a US journalist abducted in Pakistan last week to treat him "with compassion and kindness." *AFP*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1988, Arianne Cerdeña rolled 1327 pins to win the singles title in the 5th BBA-San Miguel Open tenpin championship at Celebrity Sports Plaza. Also today in 1995, Ric Magramo Jr. beat Alexis Janiola via unanimous decision to retain the Philippine junior flyweight crown at the Sablayan Astrodome in Occidental Mindoro.

SPORTSWATCH

PHA leads 'Lakad Puso' tomorrow

TO kick off the observance of Heart Month and the observance of its 50th anniversary, the Philippine Heart Association leads the entire nation to a month of sports and fitness activities, starting with a five-kilometer fun walk to be staged simultaneously in Metro Manila, Naga City, Legaspi City, Cebu and Mindanao tomorrow, Sunday.

SSC defeats SBC, enters semis

SAN SEBASTIAN College defeated San Beda College, 65-60, yesterday to complete the semifinal cast in the National Capital Region eliminations of the Intercollegiate basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Nurjamjam Alfad scored 15 points followed by Dominic Nadela with 10 as the Stags joined Las Piñas College, National University and University of Santo Tomas in the next round.

CPJ Memorial taekwondo stakes berths

PHILIPPINE team berths will be up for grabs tomorrow in the 2002 Petron CPJ Memorial taekwondo championships starting at 9 a.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. "This is our most important tournament because the results will determine the members of the national team," said Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado yesterday. Competition will be conducted in five divisions—men and women, junior men, junior women and grade school.

Barotac Nuevo, Cebu Carmen prevail

ILOILO CITY—Host Barotac Nuevo National High and Cebu Carmen High School hurdled their respective rivals yesterday to make the semifinals of the 18th Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 national football championship at the La Paz field here. Barotac Nuevo crushed Davao's Rizal Memorial Colleges, 4-0, to top Group A with six points, while Cebu Carmen blanked Iligan's La Salle Academy, 6-0, to rule Group B also with six points. Despite the loss, the LSA booters also made it to the semis for producing a better goal average than Masbate National Comprehensive High.

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Dynasouls 2. Togsi's Ambition
Race 2—1. Big Mama 2. Prickly Heat 3. Sand Splash
Race 3—1. Flying Strike 2. Sharp Bullet
Race 4—1. River Bee 2. Kayang Kaya 3. Green Buck 4. Super Shuttle 5. Aly Sam
Race 5—1. Playing With Fire 2. Royal Worship 3. Dixie Dancer
Race 6—1. Demolition Jack 2. Timeless Beauty 3. Ananpour
Race 7—1. Kiss Me Quick 2. Something Silver 3. Despedida 4. Strong Bird.
Race 8—1. Rose and Toy 2. Winning Prize 3. Court General
Race 9—1. Vanicx 2. Happy Return 3. Alert One 4. Touch of Jax 5. Pride of Dita
Race 10—1. Bohemyo 2. Jamie's Princess 3. El Bulldog 4. Flying Fortress 5. Green Leaves
Race 11—1. Sweep Away 2. Top Mark 3. Noble House
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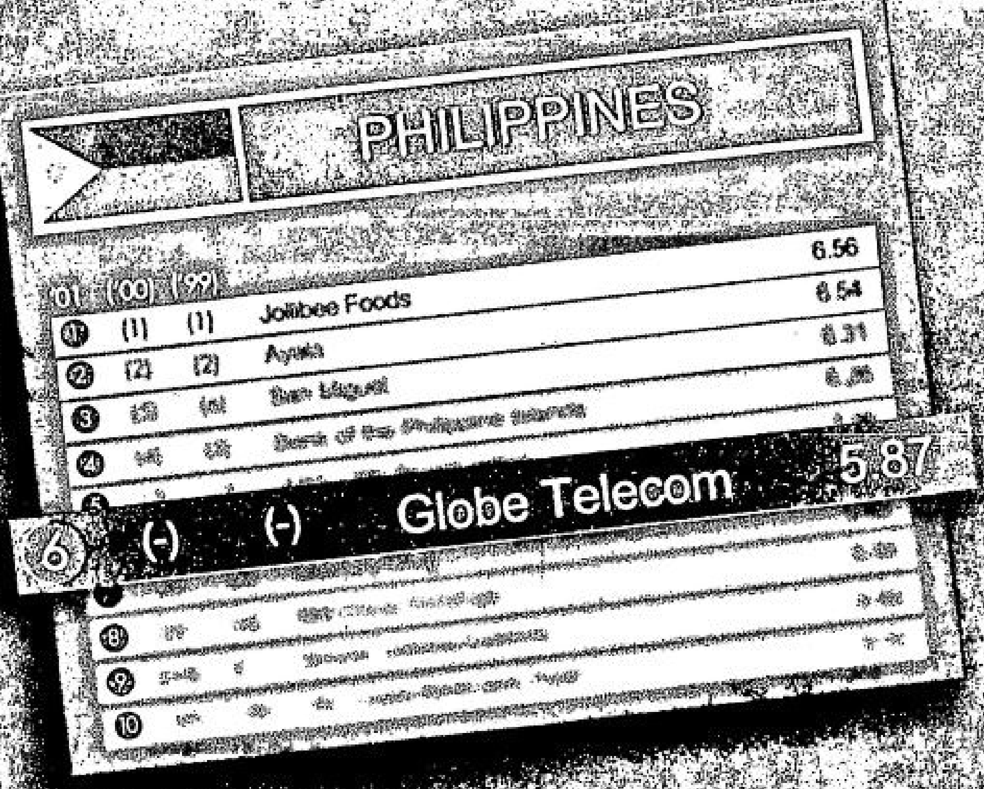
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GLOBE TELECOM

METRO
Louie C. Camino, Editor

WHAT'S INSIDE ▪ Top surgeon to operate on poor kids /A22

Evidence, Nida witness' story match–NBI

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation finally could have in their hands the reliable witness who will help the bureau solve the murder of actress Nida Blanca, according to lawyer Ricardo Diaz.

WYCOCO

Diaz yesterday described the witness as male, saying that he was credible when he identified the participants in the crime and their motive, and related the events that happened on the night the actress was murdered. But the bureau still has to get the sworn statement of the witness, who was already interviewed by NBI agents under Director Reynaldo Wycoco Diaz said.

"We are just trying to find out the extent of his participation. We want to determine if the information he gave us were hearsay or if it were personal knowledge," Diaz said.

The witness claimed he knew what happened through conversations and phone calls with the other persons behind the murder, Diaz said.

"I think we are now in the final phase of the investigation. Very soon, the country might finally get a rest from this case. All that remains is (tying up) the loose ends."

He said that the new witness supplied the bureau with the "missing facts" that showed where Blanca went and what happened to her after she left the Movie, Television Review and Classification Board office at the Atlanta Centre Building on Nov. 6.

EVIDENCE/ A20

Chinese sells Buy Pinoy movement

By Nini Valera

CHUA

BUSINESSMAN Francis Chua is describing a way of life.

A son is born to an immigrant Chinese couple in the Philippines. Husband and wife ask the grandmother from China to come here and take care of the baby while they make the family fortune. The *amah* raises the child the way she knows best, speaking to him in the only language she knows—a Chinese dialect—and lavishing on him the practical wisdom of China.

The child is educated in one of the local Chinese schools where he learns his first words of Filipino and English. He finishes school, becomes an adult, takes a Chinese bride and work in the business his father built.

Meanwhile, the father has hooked up with other Chinese immigrants, building their enclave in Binondo and forming associations, like the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc., to help each other in their business.

That way of life continues in the next generations, except for subtle changes. The son's son is no longer raised by the Chinese *amah* but by a Filipino nursemaid who talks to him in Filipino. He, too, goes to a Chinese school, which has since evolved its curriculum with

CHINESE SELLS/ A20

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2 sisters slain, raped

By Nelson F. Flores

TWO sisters were raped, tortured and then stabbed dead in their home in Antipolo City.

Agnes Baylon, 26, and her sister Jasmine, 22, both of Sampaguita Street in Sitio Dalig Uno, Barangay Dalig, Antipolo City, were found dead, naked and hogtied in their bedroom at about 8 a.m. yesterday, police said.

Arnold Jaurigue, Jasmine's friend, said he went to the sisters' house after his repeated calls to their cell phones were not answered. He told police it was unusual for the sisters not to respond to his calls.

SPO2 Jesus Nueva, Antipolo City police desk officer, said Jasmine's body also bore torture marks aside from the stab wounds. He said she was hit in the head with a hard object and apparently choked with pillows.

This led investigators to believe that there were more than one person responsible for the rape and killing of the sisters.

Police said the sisters, whose parents were in Masbate, were apparently attacked between 10 p.m. on Thursday and dawn the following day. The assailants entered the house after one of them removed three pieces of glass jalousies from the kitchen window and then opening the main door to his companions, police said.

Antipolo City police chief Supt. Jose Dayco told newsmen they already have a suspect, but refused to elaborate. But a police source said Jasmine had accused before the Rizal Provincial Prosecutor's Office a suspected drug dependent of stealing her cell phone last December.

The alleged drug dependent was among the contractors who built the Baylon house last December, and knew the layout of the house, the source said.

SEPTEMBER KIDNAPPING

6 NPD cop ordered arrested

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA regional trial court has issued warrants of arrest and hold departure orders for six policemen accused of abducting three jewelers last September.

Manila RTC Branch 41 Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada issued the warrants on Jan. 28 and recommended no bail for Chief Insp. Michael Angelo Martin, Insp. Allanjing Medina, PO3 Arnold Asis, PO2 Pedro Gutierrez, PO2 Nilo dela Paz and PO2 Antonio Berida Jr.

On the motion of Department of Justice prosecutors, the judge also directed the Bureau of Immigration to include the suspects in the agency's hold departure list.

The suspects, all members of the Northern Police District's intelligence office, are charged with kidnapping for ransom jewelers Maca-angos Alawiya, Isagani Abdul and Zarah Langco on Sept. 11, 2001.

The victims were freed after they reportedly agreed to give the policemen P700,000 in cash and two vehicles—a Toyota Tamaraw FX and a Mitsubishi Adventure.

Alawiya, Abdul and Langco told investigators they were on board another Mitsubishi Adventure when a blue Toyota sedan bumped them on United Nations Avenue.

When the trio got off the van, several armed men alighted from the Toyota and aimed their guns on the victims. The three were then blindfolded and allegedly taken to an office at the NPD headquarters, investigators said.

A certain "Abdul" initially demanded P10 million and two vehicles from the victims. After some haggling, the amount was reduced to P700,000. Alawiya's uncle delivered the money to the suspects at the Hotel Grand Boulevard's Casino Filipino Club the following day, while the vehicles were turned over at Max's Restaurant in Caloocan City.

Alawiya, Abdul and Langco were released in Quiapo on Sept. 12. They later filed a complaint against the suspects and identified them using police academy yearbooks.

The policemen were later apprehended and investigated by the National Capital Regional Police Office's intelligence division.

In their defense, the suspects claimed they were "building up a case" against the jewelers. The suspects said the three are involved in "massive drug trafficking."

They said a "buy-bust" operation was supposed to take place near Paco Park, but it did not materialize because Alawiya sensed the presence of the policemen and fled.

The policemen said they were chasing the victim's car when a taxicab blocked their path. They arrested the cab driver but did not go after the victims any more.

In indicting the suspects, DOJ State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco blamed the policemen, who failed to appear in the preliminary investigation, for not providing evidence to back up their claim that the victims were drug traffickers.

The policemen, it turned out, did not coordinate their operation with the Manila police nor did they conduct any "test buy" to strengthen their case, the prosecutor said.

Velasco also cited an entry in the NPD police intelligence unit logbook where it was recorded that the victims were released for lack of evidence.

Velasco said the suspects did not have any legal basis to bring the suspects to the NPD office since they did not find any shabu in the victims' car.

Homicide vs boy, 13

POLICE on Thursday filed homicide charges against a 13-year-old boy who stabbed and killed his classmate during a brawl in Pasig City Tuesday afternoon.

Charges were filed before the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office after police determined the culpability of the boy through the evidence and testimonies of witnesses.

Police said the boy used a kitchen knife to pierce the heart of Ramesis Tongco, 12, of Block 135 Lot 49, Phase II, C-1 Karangalan Village, Pasig City. Police said the boy fled after the stabbing but his parents later surrendered him to the police. He is now detained at the Pasig City police station.

PO1 Joseph Ulep, Pasig City police investigator, said the boy threw a stone at Tongco's bag at the corner of Kakisigan and Kaunlaran streets in Karangalan Village, Barangay Manggahan. Ulep said the boy apparently mistook Tongco for one of those who earlier teased him for his bulging eyes.

A fistfight broke out and the boy pulled out a knife from his bag and stabbed Tongco.

Ulep said the suspect's parents might be held civilly liable for the action of their son. *Nelson F. Flores*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, February 2, 2002
Presentation of the Lord

1st Reading: **Mal 3:1-4**
2nd Reading: **Heb 2:14-18**
Gospel: **Lk 2:22-32**

When the day came for the purification according to the law of Moses, they brought the baby up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: *Every firstborn male shall be consecrated to God.* And they offered a sacrifice as ordered in the law of the Lord: *a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*

There lived in Jerusalem at this time a very upright and devout man named Simeon; the Holy Spirit was in him. He looked forward to the time when the Lord would comfort Israel, and he had been assured by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Messiah of the Lord. So he was led into the Temple by the Holy Spirit at the time the parents brought the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law.

Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed God, saying, "Now, O Lord, you can dismiss your servant in peace, for you have fulfilled your word and my eyes have seen your salvation, which you display for all the people to see. Here is the light you will reveal to the nations and the glory of your people Israel."

Commentary

It is very significant that those who come close to Mary and Joseph and have a deep insight about the mission of this child are old people. The wisdom granted to those in old age proclaims the wonders that God makes for those who hope for the liberation of the people. What are we doing with our old people, with so much wisdom that they have? This is particularly worth pondering in our society where youth is overestimated, and where productivity and consumerism are the major concerns. When old age is not only lack of physical strength, but accumulation of wisdom and interior freedom, old people are not only apt to lead communities but also to initiate and support great renewal in the society and the Church, like Popes John XXIII and John Paul II did.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE—PROVISIONAL REMEDIES)—Injunction—Injunction is a preservative remedy for the protection of one's substantive right or interest. It is granted only when there is a pressing necessity to avoid injurious consequences which cannot be remedies under any standard compensation. Its issuance rests upon the existence of an emergency or special reason before the main case can be regularly heard. It is for the party requesting an injunction to demonstrate clearly the presence of one or more of the grounds for its issuance. The allegations in the complaints in the cases above quoted are insufficient to justify the issuance of a temporary restraining order. As correctly pointed out by complainants in their first motion for reconsideration, irreparable injury does not have reference to the amount of damages that may be cause but rather to the difficulty of measuring the damages inflicted. Administrative Circular No. 20-95 in clear terms requires that a grave and irreparable injury should exist, or may occur, to justify the issuance of a temporary restraining order without a hearing. What is more, complainants were in possession of the lands and the effect of the TRO was to dispossess them of the land, if not to transfer possession thereof to the plaintiffs. Respondent's failure to comply with Administrative Circular No. 20-95 in issuing the TRO constitutes grave abuse of authority prejudicial to the proper administration of justice. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Pascual v. Dumlao, A.M. No. MTJ-01-1350]

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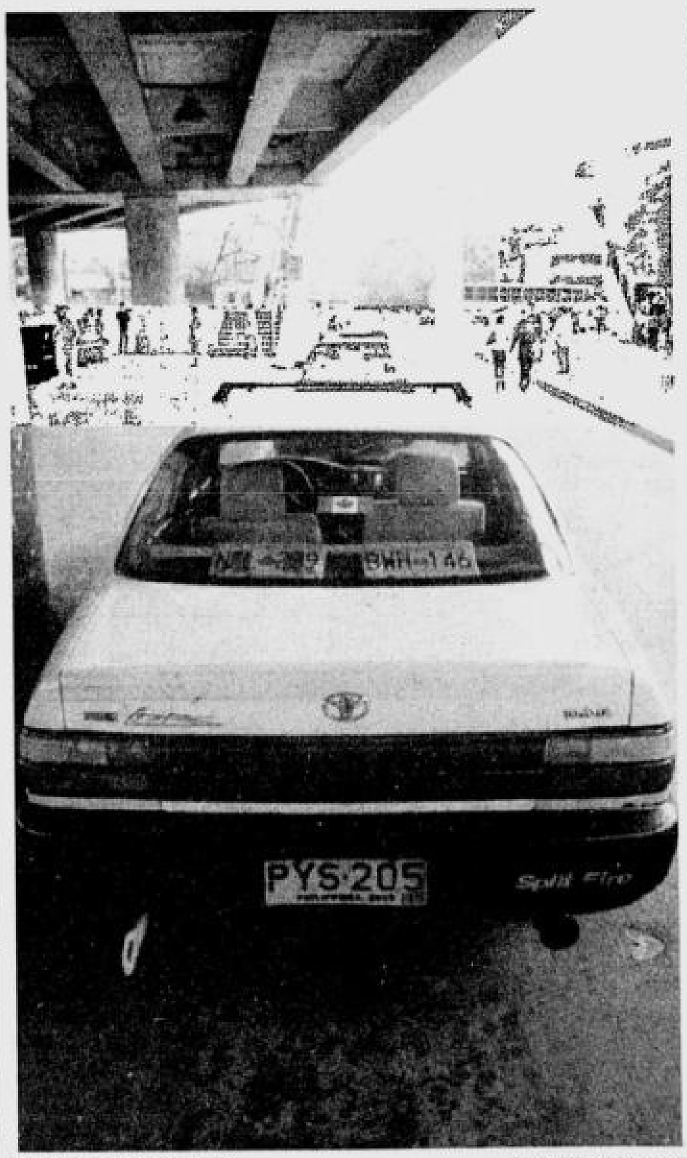


JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

DANGER ZONE

What looks like a quiet portion of the underside of the Edsa-Buendia overpass is actually an accident waiting to happen. While this service road is actually for the use of vehicles making a U-turn on Buendia, it is also being used by taxis as a parking area, leaving little room for passing vehicles and even posing a threat to them. Is the Makati police turning a blind eye to the potential danger?

Chinese sells Buy Pinoy . . .

(From page A19)

Western thoughts, Christian principles and local ideals.

After college, he marries his nice local Chinese girlfriend and works in his father's father's business. His own son is raised like him, again with small differences in the rearing.

The differences become more palpable when his son, unlike him, goes for higher education abroad after college, takes over the family business and runs it differently from his grandfather's way. Like most 3rd generation Filipino-Chinese, he finds pride in being Filipino.

Present reality

Chua is one of these 3rd generation Chinese sons. Born and raised in the Philippines, he studied at the Xavier School and finished Industrial Engineering at the University of the Philippines. And he embraces the country of his birth with fierce patriotism.

Even though he speaks both Filipino and English with a Chinese accent and gets the words mixed up as he stresses his point, Chua's sense of the Filipino is shown in his passion for progressing the Buy Pinoy Movement, which the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry counts among its projects.

He describes another way of life, which is a present reality of most Filipinos: Juan de la Cruz wakes up at 6 a.m. to an alarm clock made in China, brushes his teeth with toothpaste made in Indonesia and bathes with soap and shampoo made in Malaysia. He lounges on his parents' sofa that is made in Italy. For breakfast, he eats cereals with milk made in Australia, drinks coffee made in Kenya and finishes the meal with an apple from New Zealand. He dresses up in slacks made in the United States, long-sleeved shirts made in India, a tie made in France and business shoes made in Switzerland. Then he drives off in his father's Japanese-made car.

And Juan de la Cruz is looking for a job.

Patriotism

"What we're saying is we want everybody to realize that we have to put some effort in patronizing our own products," says Chua, who is into financing, manufacturing, satellite communication, broadcasting, computer retailing, among others.

"We're not saying that we have to buy a hundred percent local products. But if you used to buy 100 percent imported product, then you can maybe put 20 percent of your budget on local products. Of course, it's very hard to tell people to be patriotic. But somewhere, somehow, we could do it as a people."

Buying Pinoy has since become a conscious effort for Chua, who admits that he used to purchase imported whiskey, wine and other foreign-made products for gifts when he goes abroad or as corporate giveaways.

But last Christmas, he bought all local products to give as gifts, "like our tobacco, rum in oak barrel." Every time he looks at something, he says that at the back of his mind there is a conscious effort to purchase what is made in the Philippines.

"We're just thinking of survival," he admits. "We have reached a certain stage that unless we try to do something about it, our manufacturers will just die a local death."

Globalization

The movement also seeks to create more employment for Filipinos and a healthier economy for local business.

CHINESE /A25

Official dilly-dallying killed American trekker

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

HAD Philippine authorities allowed US troops staying at the Clark Special Economic Zone to take part in the search and rescue in the early hours, who knows, American Brian Thomas Smith might have been saved.

Smith was shot in the chest by armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army while he and a German friend, Siegfried Whitman, were trekking to Mt. Pinatubo.

Their plight was known after Whitman sent a text message to a friend in Clark. Both Whitman and Smith are Clark residents.

***

The two foreigners, who didn't have Filipino guides, were ambushed at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. Whitman's message was relayed to the authorities immediately.

Troops were dispatched to the area to undertake search and rescue. A Philippine Air Force helicopter spotted Whitman waving from a cave but the helicopter could not land for fear of being shot at by the armed men.

I learned from a friend who has connections with the US Embassy that American troops volunteered to take part in the rescue. But Philippine officials dillydallied. They were weighing the consequences of involving the Americans in a purely internal matter.

***

Finally, toward nightfall, American help was sought. A US Air Force MH-47 helicopter equipped with night vision and sophisticated armaments was dispatched.

But by then it was too late. Whitman was rescued 30 hours after he was reported missing. Smith apparently bled to death.

If not for the Filipino's false pride, Smith could still be alive.

***

Jose Ma. Sison, self-exiled leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), signed his death warrant when he ordered NPA guerrillas to kill American soldiers taking part in the war exercise in the country.

The United States will have a reason to go after him for being a "terrorist." The government of the Netherlands will have a hard time protecting Sison from American vengeance.

Smith and Whitman were ambushed because the NPA guerrillas apparently mistook them for United States soldiers out on a trek to Mt. Pinatubo.

***

Sison is not that intelligent, after all. If he were he wouldn't have been so brash as to order the killing of American troops in the country.

He should have known better. The US government is on the warpath against terrorists, or people who make it their business to kill Americans in their homeland or abroad.

The government of the Netherlands, pressured by Washington, DC, will probably lift Sison's refugee status and turn him over to the United States for trial.

As Texans are wont to say to their potential enemies: "You don't mess with us and get away with it." The US president happens to be a Texan.

***

Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza should investigate police Col. Gilbert Soza, who claims to be from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), for reportedly using his power to squat on a government property in Anda, Pangasinan.

Soza is allegedly constructing a beach house in Barangay Tondol, an area declared by the town as an ecotourism park and therefore off-limits to habitation. Tondol has a pristine, white beach and is considered the "Little Boracay of the North."

Soza, according to Anda Mayor Alice Jimenez Pulido, was presented a cease and desist order by the town's chief of police. But he has defied the order. The police chief could not do anything since Soza is senior in rank.

***

Last Jan. 15, Soza challenged some Tondol barangay *kagawads* to a gunfight for trying to stop him from constructing his beach house.

And now, Soza has allegedly threatened to harm Mayor Pulido. He has reportedly sent word that the mayor should not move around without security.

Pulido says she doesn't believe in having bodyguards, "but now that I am threatened, what do I do?"

General Mendoza, what do you do with a problem like Soza?

***

If Soza is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) as he reportedly claims he is, then he brings shame on the proud military institution.

"What kind of officers are the PMA producing?" asks Mayor Pulido. "What kind of an officer is the PNP nurturing?"

Mayor, the PMA no longer produces officers like it used to. In my father's time, military officers who were products of the PMA were the epitome of integrity. Times have changed, Madame Mayor.

***

Asiatrust Bank wrote to say that this corner was treading on a *sub judice* issue when it wrote about the alleged involvement of its officers in an insurance claims scam last Tuesday.

Sub judice means under litigation or trial and the merits of the case cannot be discussed in public.

"Inasmuch (sic) as the case is being heard in court, we are constrained (sic) that it might be sub judice for us or your publication to continue discussing the case. More specifically, your publication may be subject of a restraining order if this matter continues to be discussed in your paper," said Cora A. Mallillin, Asiatrust first vice president, in a letter to the Inquirer.

Ma'am, this corner did not discuss the merits of the case when it dealt on the scam that reportedly involved some of your officials. This corner said that there was such a scam. It just so happened that the report said some of Asiatrust officials were involved. It could have been other banks.

This corner was just citing a report made to the Bangko Sentral by Fortune Insurance. What's "sub judice" about that?

Evidence, Nida . . .

(From page A19)

Diaz also admitted that the witness is still afraid to come out because he fears for his life and the safety of his family.

"He wants an assurance from the bureau, especially from our Director, that he and his family would be adequately secured," Diaz said. "The witness is afraid of opening up. We need to convince him to cooperate fully."

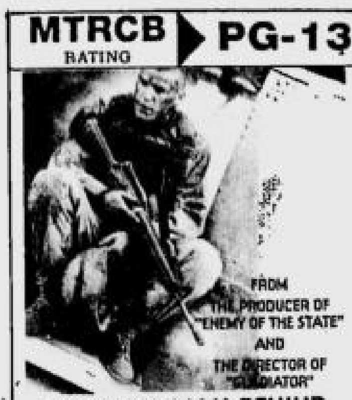
Blanca was found dead the following day inside her Nissan Sedan, which was parked on the sixth floor of the building.

"Not only that. He also told us who were involved and what was the motive behind the slaying," Diaz said.

An NBI source said the witness was close to Philip Medel Jr., who earlier confessed to killing Blanca, but who later retracted his confession. The source said that once the information from the witness is confirmed, those who were previously linked to the killing might find themselves in the hot seat again.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND

BLACK HAWK DOWN

sony.com/BlackHawkDown

REVOLUTION STUDIOS

All star cast!

"The best war movie I've seen!"
-- Larry King, CNN

From Ridley Scott, acclaimed director of GLADIATOR and Jerry Bruckheimer, producer of PEARL HARBOR comes a war epic voted by *Time Magazine* as one of the best films of the year.

The all-star cast includes the brightest names in young Hollywood: Josh Hartnett of PEARL HARBOR, Ewan McGregor of MOULIN ROUGE and Orlando Bloom, the well-loved Legolas in LORD OF THE RINGS.

Columbia Pictures' BLACK HAWK DOWN is the true story of elite American soldiers on a mission to stop a ruthless Somalian warlord in 1993.

Don't miss this must-see movie event, described by CNN's Larry King as "the best war movie I've ever seen."

NOW SHOWING

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS)	HEART IN ATLANTIS
4 GOLD (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
9	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10	FINAL ANSWER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
6 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

METROPOLIS star
Tel. 850 4285

1	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2	HEART IN ATLANTIC
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	WALANG IWANAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
A	ISANG PANAGINIP

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	HEART IN ATLANTIS
6	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 (DOLBY)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ISANG PANAGINIP

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	FINAL ANSWER
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (SDDS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 (DTS)	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	BUKO PANDAN
9	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 (DOLBY)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4	FINAL ANSWER
5 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ISANG PANAGINIP

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ISANG PANAGINIP

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HUBO
Lords	TALK DIRTY TO ME
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	ISANG PANAGINIP

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	HEART IN ATLANTIC
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	FINAL ANSWER

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	FINAL ANSWER

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma
tel 079.2029

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2	ISANG PANAGINIP

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	FINAL ANSWER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	FINAL ANSWER
2 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS)	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1	THE OTHERS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DOLBY)	ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (DTS)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	FINAL ANSWER
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS)	THE OTHERS
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	FINAL ANSWER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2556

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	BURLESK KING

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	THE OTHERS
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	FINAL ANSWER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BUKO PANDAN
2	ON THE LINE
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (DTS ES)	FINAL ANSWER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

NOW SHOWING

LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND

BLACK HAWK DOWN

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas
NOW SHOWING
e-mail : htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA
632-0115-16 /633-7841 loc. 279

THX

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	HEART IN ATLANTIS
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	FINAL ANSWER
9	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10	THE OTHERS

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	HEART IN ATLANTIS
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

METRO EAST
632-0115-16 /633-7641

1	HEART IN ATLANTIS
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN THE OTHERS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN LORD OF THE RINGS
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA FINAL ANSWER

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	HEART IN ATLANTIS
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

IMUS
(046) 471-6190

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	HEART IN ATLANTIS
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	ISANG PANAGINIP

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453 / 0458

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	IRON LADIES
6	WALANG IWANAN

ILOILO
(033) 320-9077 / 9079

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BURLESK KING
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SISID / TAILS OF EROTIKA
ODEON	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ODEON-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
ROBEN	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	DON'T SAY A WORD / GHOST FROM MARS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
REMAR	BLACK HAWK DOWN
REMAR-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
B	BLACK HAWK DOWN
C	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-2	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
CINEMA-3	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-6	THE OTHERS
CINEMA-7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-8	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWKDOWN
CINEMA-12	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-14	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
CINEMA-15	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-3	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
8	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

SM CENTERPOINT
7140322 -7161416

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	THE OTHERS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10	AMERICAN ADOBO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350740

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7	BLACK HAWK DOWN
8	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	AMERICAN ADOBO
12	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7	THE OTHERS
8	AMERICAN ADOBO
9	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	FINAL ANSWER
12	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6328401

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	BLACK HAWKDOWN
4	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
7	THE OTHERS
8	AMERICAN ADOBO
9	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10	ISANG PANAGINIP
11	FINAL ANSWER
12	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
10	LOR OF THE RINGS
11	THE OTHERS
12	BLACK HAWK DOWN

SM SOUTHMALL
8000080 • 8000782

1	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
2	THE OTHERS
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
9	FINAL ANSWER
10	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY CEBU
2313879

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	BUKO PANDAN
7	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	BUKO PANDAN
2	CLOSED
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	CLOSED
8	BURLESK KING

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128013

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	SUMMER CATCH
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY TUTUBAN
2514302

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	FINAL ANSWER
4	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY DAVAO
2974004

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	AMERICAN AOBO
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Redevelopment will continue, says Atienza

By Jerome Aning

MANILA residents should expect more "redevelopment" of the city's famous but deteriorating landmarks in the next few years.

In his state of the city address yesterday at the newly renovated Liwasang Bonifacio, Mayor Lito Atienza said the Pasig River bank, Roxas Boulevard, Divisoria and old "Manila Downtown"—composed of the Quiapo-Sta. Cruz area—would next receive attention from City Hall.

Amid a morning drizzle, about 1,000 people, including top city government officials, listened to the mayor's speech, which followed the re-opening of the Liwasan.

As expected, the mayor focused on the aesthetic architectural projects that his administration has accomplished and would initiate. He said the Liwasan project marks the start of the second stage of his "Buhayin ang Maynila" redevelopment program.

He said the banks of the Pasig River behind the Bureau of Immigration and in the San Nicolas and Escolta areas on the north would be transformed into a promenade.

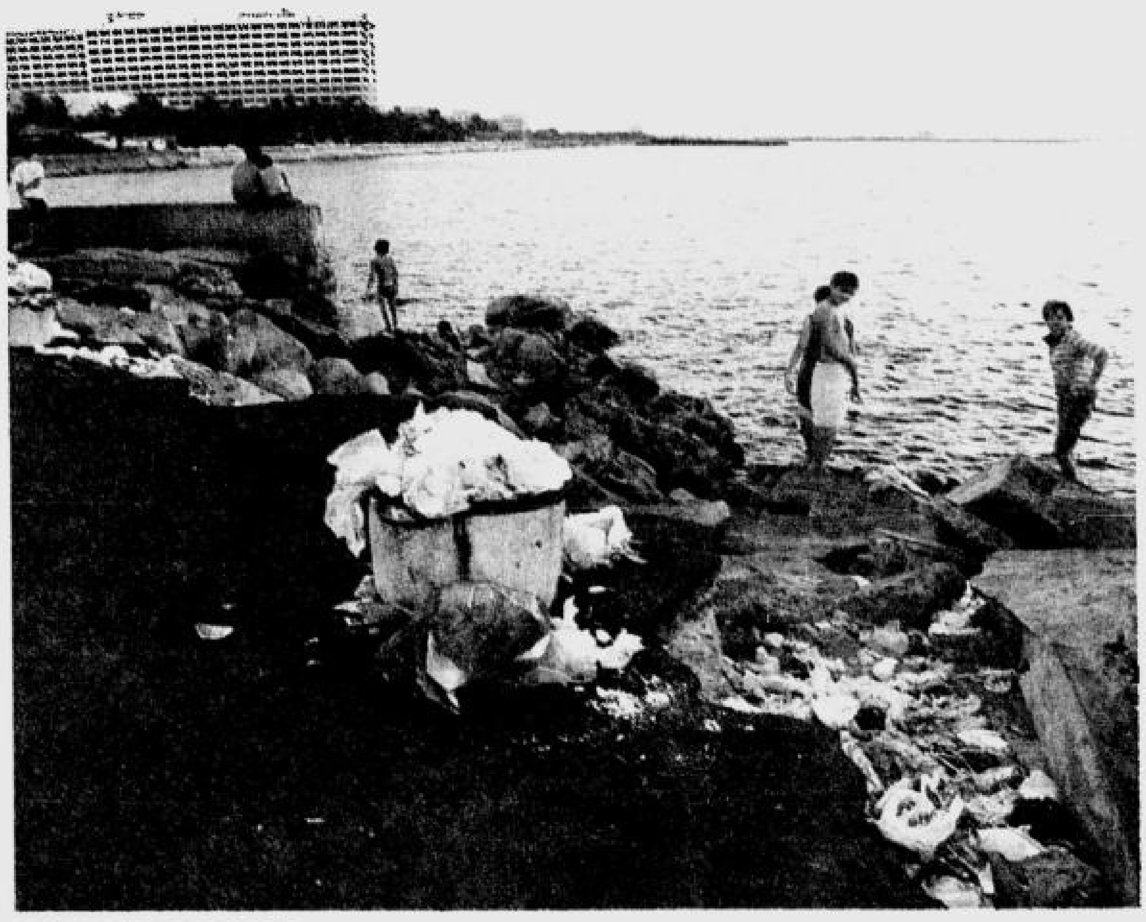
The national government and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission would undertake the project, with a P57-million funding from the Asian Development Bank.

Atienza said the redevelopment blueprint for the Old Manila Downtown project, particularly Quezon Boulevard, has been finalized and would be implemented in partnership with the property owners and stakeholders in the area.

He said many investors have expressed interest in providing capital for the rehabilitation of buildings of the old downtown, which lost its "glory" after World War II.

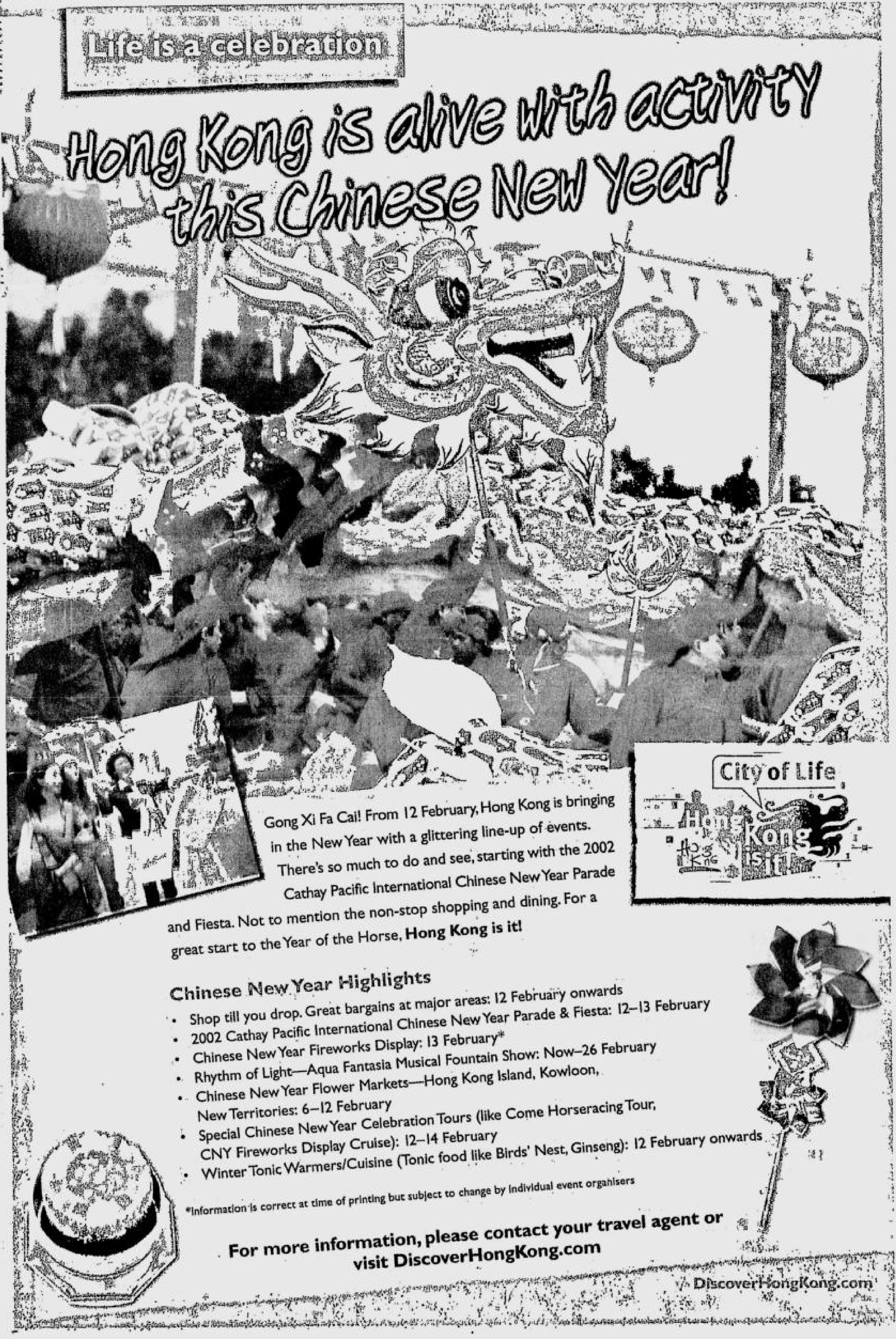
He said entertainment and leisure areas in Ermita and Malate as well as the business district in Chinatown would get a boost with an extensive lighting project which City Hall is launching soon.

Atienza stressed that he is always open to dialogue with the people opposed to his projects, such as the street vendors who want to retain their stalls on streets leading to Divisoria and the conservationists who want the Mehan Garden preserved as a park.



COMPLEX DAMAGE

Garbage and broken portions of the sea wall leave this part of the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex looking like a dump. Despite the danger from the collapsed wall and the stink of the trash, it is still frequented by strollers and swimmers. VAL HANDUMON



Life is a celebration

Hong Kong is alive with activity this Chinese New Year!

City of Life
Hong Kong is it!

Gong Xi Fa Cai! From 12 February, Hong Kong is bringing in the New Year with a glittering line-up of events. There's so much to do and see, starting with the 2002 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Parade and Fiesta. Not to mention the non-stop shopping and dining. For a great start to the Year of the Horse, **Hong Kong is it!**

Chinese New Year Highlights

- Shop till you drop. Great bargains at major areas: 12 February onwards
- 2002 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Parade & Fiesta: 12–13 February
- Chinese New Year Fireworks Display: 13 February*
- Rhythm of Light—Aqua Fantasia Musical Fountain Show: Now–26 February
- Chinese New Year Flower Markets—Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, New Territories: 6–12 February
- Special Chinese New Year Celebration Tours (like Come Horseracing Tour, CNY Fireworks Display Cruise): 12–14 February
- Winter Tonic Warmers/Cuisine (Tonic food like Birds' Nest, Ginseng): 12 February onwards

*Information is correct at time of printing but subject to change by individual event organisers

For more information, please contact your travel agent or visit DiscoverHongKong.com

DiscoverHongKong.com

DR. Darryl Hodgkinson, with Via Marquez-Hoffman.

Top surgeon to operate on poor kids in Parañaque

ONE of the world's leading cosmetic surgeons flew in yesterday to lead an Australia-based international mission called Operation Restore Hope (ORH) that will perform free corrective surgery on poor families' children in Parañaque City who were born with facial deformities.

Alay sa Kinabukasan (ASK), a foundation founded and organized by Mayor Joey Marquez and his two siblings, is overseeing the free operation which last year helped 47 children born with cleft lips or cleft palates.

A day after his arrival, Dr. Darryl J. Hodgkinson, who is ORH chair, and his staff conducted a final screening to determine the physical fitness of this year's more than 60 applicants for the corrective surgery at the Parañaque Community Hospital in Barangay La Huerta.

ASK Foundation president Damba Marquez, who is coordinating the project together with their sister Via Marquez-Hoffman, said the free operation will be done Feb. 2-8 in cooperation with the city government of Parañaque and the PCH staff led by Dr. Loreleigh S. Obed.

A normal operation to correct a cleft lip or cleft palate, Damba Marquez said, costs between P20,000 and P30,000. "It could cost more, up to P70,000, if more than one surgery is needed," he said.

Hoffman said fundraising is an important part of the mission "because Dr. Hodgkinson and his team have to take every suture, medication, glove and equipment with them when they fly to the beneficiary-country."

Donations to ORH can be coursed through ASK, 820-4882 or 0919-3591-243.

The international mission is made up of doctors and nurses who volunteer their time and who spend their own money to travel to developing nations to treat underprivileged children with facial deformities.

Hodgkinson, a native of New South Wales, is one of the few surgeons in the world who hold two degrees in plastic surgery, obtained at the Royal College of Surgeons in Canada and the American Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons.

He did eight years of postgraduate training outside his country, including five years at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in the US and six months of surgical fellowship specializing in cosmetic surgery in Newport Beach, California. He still practices in Baltimore, Maryland many times each year.

Cheap drugs not always good-BFAD

CONSUMERS should be suspicious of medicines, which are sold too cheaply, according to lawyer Ireneo M. Galicia, chief legal counsel of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD)

"If the medicine is too cheap, be wary," Galicia said.

The cheap stuff might not be the real thing and contains less than 80 percent of the active ingredients, he said.

Galicia said that counterfeit or fake drugs are under dosed medicine and are not as potent and efficacios as what is indicated in their labels. But there are several ways of detecting fakes from the genuine thing, he said, even if the bogus drugs might come in similar packaging and labeling as the genuine article and can only be detected by a trained eye, Galicia said.

Consumers can determine if a medicine is bogus by examining closely the box or packaging of the drug. Fake medicine is poorly packaged and has blurred or hazy prints on its label. If the contents are coarse or bubbly on the surface, the medicine could also be a fake since imitation drugs have been manufactured with minimal quality control. Containers of faked medicine would appear tampered or recycled. But most important, phony drugs are priced very cheaply, Galicia stressed.

He warned that these substandard imitation drugs have not passed the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) tests, which all drug companies operating in the Philippines are required to adhere. These tests include strict measures, from sourcing of quality raw materials to manufacturing, and post-manufacturing health and safety standards.

Republic Act 8203, which is the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs and RA 3720 otherwise known as the Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act have been passed to deter illegal counterfeiting of drugs, was passed in 1996. But this has not prevented unscrupulous operators from faking drugs because of the high profit margin of the illegal trade, Galicia said.

Republic Acts 3720 and 8203 impose severe punishment reserved for common criminals for manufacturers of fake drugs and stiffly penalizes outlets selling these medicines.

The BFAD also has regular surveillance teams that uncover these operations, Galicia said. Although funds are limited to cover extensive monitoring activities nationwide, the BFAD, together with the government and the private sector, have been conducting raids around the country to eradicate counterfeit drugs operations. In a recent raid in Quezon province, fake anti-rabies vaccines made up mostly of laundry starch were seized.

Lax security at the airports and piers has also made the Philippines a favored transshipment point of counterfeit drugs heading for Mexico and the US, with some of the cargo unloaded into the country.

In southern Mindanao, illegal drug shipments coursed through General Santos City from India, Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan, are on the shelves of small drugstores in the region. The reluctance of owners of drugstores to allow licensed pharmacists a more active role in the sourcing of medicines also encourages the malpractice, Galicia noted.

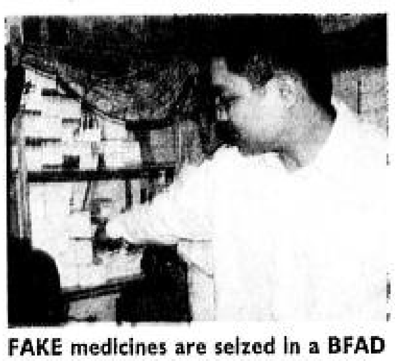
He said that like fake perfumes and branded clothes, counterfeit medicines also attract buyers because of bargain prices that are from 30 to 60 percent lower than the real thing. But unlike other bogus merchandise, it is difficult to prove a medicine is counterfeit because it is consumed and might even be harmful to the body.

The DOH, BFAD and PHAP have launched a campaign to stop the proliferation of counterfeit drugs. Posters warning the customer against phony medicines have been put up near entrances of both neighborhood and drugstore chains.

Galicia also advised consumers to buy medicines only from reputable drugstores. He said they should also examine the medicine first to make sure they are buying the genuine products.

The BFAD has also toughened its stance against counterfeits with higher fines and outright closure of establishments found selling faked drugs. Retailers of counterfeit drugs also face imprisonment.

Consumers are also advised to report establishments that peddle faked medicines to BFAD, which has a facility for laboratory analysis of drugs. But it is important for the complainant to give BFAD a sample of the suspected counterfeit drug to BFAD for analysis. A doctor's report that evaluates unexplained drug reactions would also substantiate a complaint. The BFAD Hotline numbers are 807-8275 or 807-0725. ***Vikkie Castro, Contributor***



FAKE medicines are seized in a BFAD raid on a house in San Francisco del Monte in Quezon City.

Dads seek graft probe

By Jerome Aning

SEVERAL Manila city councilors called on the national government to investigate the reported corruption in the 18,000-member Philippine Councilors League.

Councilor Richard Ibay, of Manila's fifth district, accused PCL national president Froilan Melendrez of arbitrarily sacking him as chair of a committee tasked to look for accommodations for councilors who will be attending a convention in Manila next month.

In a privilege speech during the council's session on Thursday, Ibay said he negotiated an accommodation deal of P2,300 per delegate.

But Melendrez wanted to increase it by P100, "so we will have something for the campaign," Ibay quoted Melendrez as saying. He said Melendrez was referring to the upcoming elections in the councilors league.

Ibay said he vehemently refused and even threatened to quit the committee because the contract has been signed and is already binding on all parties.

He said that on Jan. 28, Melendrez met the hotel representatives and told them Ibay is no longer in charge of accommodation.

In a phone interview yesterday afternoon, the Manila councilor said Melendrez was angry at Ibay because he refused to include several hotels in the package deal.

Melendrez reportedly told Ibay the delegates "appealed" for the extra accommodations.

"He wanted to make us committee members his puppets and this is too much for me," Ibay said. "I don't want to be a member of the Philippine Corrupt League."

He added he has enough documents to pursue his case against Melendrez.

City and municipal governments usually shoulder the expenses of councilors who attend PCL activities, which are supervised by the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

The Inquirer tried but failed to reach Melendrez, a Davao councilor, for comment.

Ibay said he would ask the DILG to conduct an investigation and postpone the convention. He also asked the Office of the Ombudsman to look into the controversy.

Councilor Isko Moreno, a member of the PCL convention's committee on food, had also quit because of the fiasco. He also called on the Senate to step in and investigate the deal.

A minority councilor, Bernardito Ang of the third district, suggested Manila councilors should boycott PCL proceedings until the matter is settled.

STO. NIÑO 2002

The Sto. Niño, the patron saint of the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre de Niño Jesus which is permanently enshrined at the Violago chapel in Quezon City, is carried by Congregacion members during the Sto. Niño Fiesta 2002 at the PNB Banking Hall in Pasay City. Tomorrow, a grand procession of 500 "carrozas" will be held on Roxas Boulevard from the Philtrade Square to the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park.

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Las Piñas sets record

THE LAS Piñas City government has set a new accomplishment record by completing 144 quality infrastructure projects last year, Mayor Vergel Aguilar announced recently.

Aguilar said the fast-tracked projects include the concreting and asphalting of roads, construction and repair of bridges, drainage systems and canals, school buildings, health centers, daycare centers, barangay halls, streetlights, police stations, multi-purpose halls, basketball courts, among others.

"Providing our people these basic public services is the major role of the city government," Aguilar said.

City Engineer Rose Bantog said that every year the city government sets a line-up of projects, giving priority to education and health facilities, construction of roads and repair of drainage systems.

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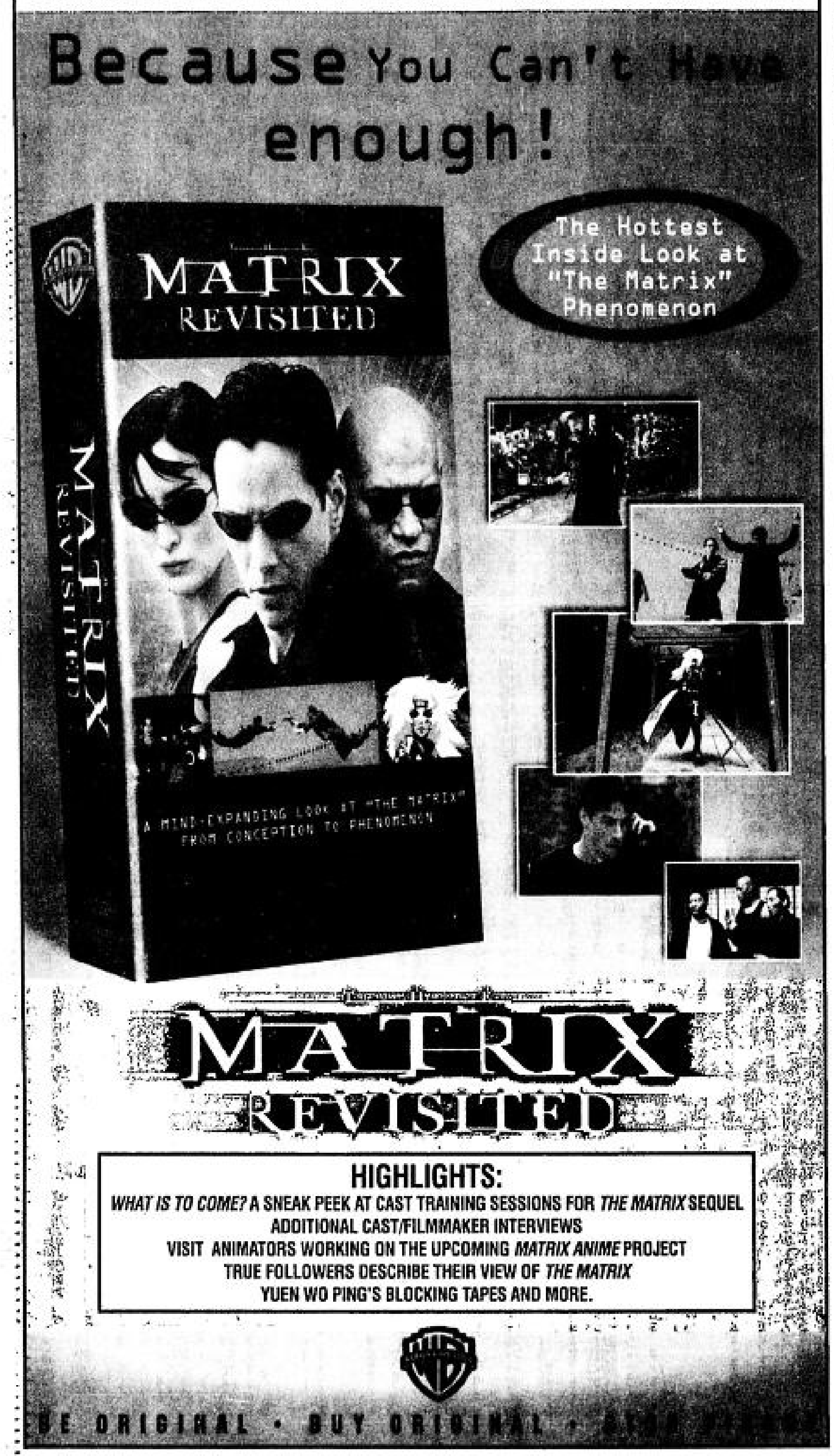
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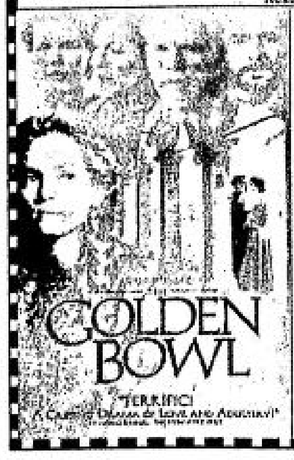
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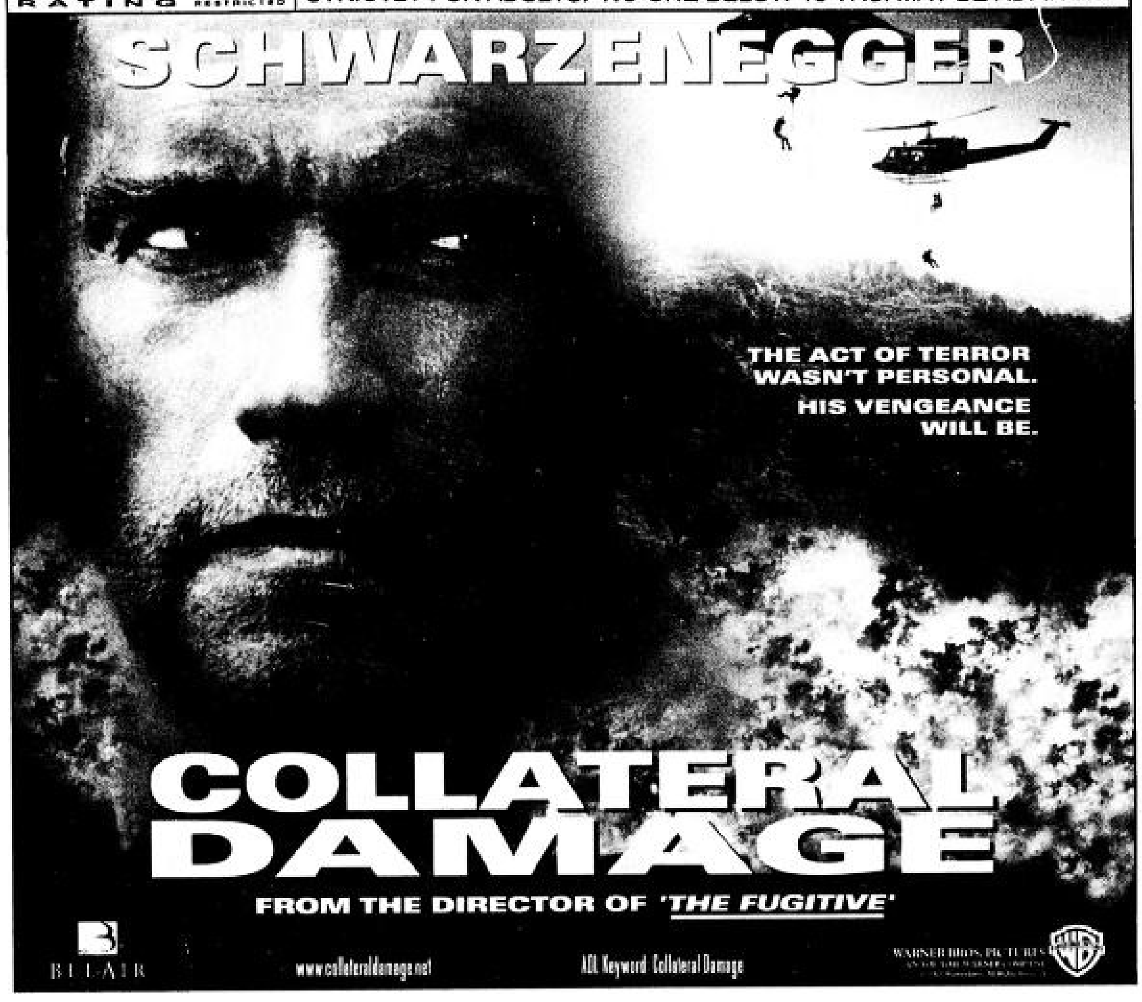
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Chinese sells Buy Pinoy movement

(From page A20)

Ironically, what spurred the Buy Pinoy movement were globalization and the Philippines' entry in the World Trade Organization (WTO), according to Chua.

"The Filipino-Chinese businessmen were the first to embrace globalization," says Chua. "Let me put it this way—globalization is good if we had a level playing field. That is the most important thing. I was with then former (Finance) Secretary (Jose) Pardo in Seattle when the Philippines was joining the WTO. I saw how Americans reacted toward globalization.

"For them, globalization is good if you patronize their products. But they don't accept globalization totally in the sense that they want to control the products that come in. There are so many restrictions. Unlike China, which negotiated and got what was good for the country, we joined the WTO not realizing the consequences that other countries were not treating us properly. Ship stocks come in, factories face extinction, more people get laid off.

"It's become a vicious cycle. We have to put a stop to that somewhere. Look at Thailand, Malaysia, Japan. Even Australia. They promote their own products in their countries."

Not protectionism

Chua disagrees that buying Pinoy would lead to protectionism, which happened in the '60s when President Carlos P. Garcia launched the Filipino First policy, effectively dulling the competitive edge of local manufacturers.

A similar scenario will no longer prosper now, he says, even with higher local labor and production costs than other Asean countries, a situation, Chua says, that local business can live with.

But what will kill the local manufacturing industry is smuggling, says Chua, and the unconscionably high cost of electricity, perhaps the highest priced in Asia.

People have told him he's crazy for batting for Filipino products, which cost more than imported ones, says Chua, who smiles at the memory of similar slurs.

"That is true for now," he says. "But if we go on a national scale on our buy Pinoy movement and cooperate with each other and all sectors, then we can move ahead. Let's start with ourselves."

He recalls a business trip in Taiwan, when, over breakfast, he noticed the other people in his group eating fruits but not our bananas. So he stood up and went to buffet table, getting bananas and distributing the fruits to everyone on the table.

"Everybody was surprised," says Chua, "but I told them this is part of the Buy Pinoy movement. If these bananas consumed, then the hotel will buy more bananas from us. Even when we're abroad, we could help."

Solving problems

Chua's activism does not stop there. Speaking for the FFCCCII, Chua reveals how the association of Filipino businessmen of Chinese descent are concerned about protecting the environment and of helping solve the garbage problem, particularly. Since five years ago, Chua says that he has been after a German company that does research on biodegradable products that could replace plastic.

"Its raw material, its major component is starch," says Chua. "What's starch but cassava and corn. If we could replace plastics with this product, then we are solving a lot of problems. We will be helping a lot of local farmers, creating a lot of jobs, and since we won't make use of petroleum in manufacturing this product, we save a lot of foreign exchange. We also help solve a lot of environmental problems.

"Hopefully, in a joint project with the Department of Trade and Industry, we might be able to come up with a product that would replace plastics."

Vowing to invest more capital in local business instead of stashing cash abroad, most Filipino-Chinese businessmen have finally realized that "we are part of society and that we cannot live alone in our enclave," says Chua.

"It's now very hard to say what is pure Chinese," says Chua. "We were born here, we do business here, and we will die here."

'Sentrong Sigla' in Mandaluyong

THE efforts of the Mandaluyong City government to upgrade its public health service bore fruits yesterday after the Department of Health declared six of the city's barangay health centers as "Sentrong Sigla."

In a statement, Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. said the recognition of six more barangay health centers as Sentrong Sigla brought to 10 the number of accredited health centers, making Mandaluyong the city with one of the most efficient public health services in the metropolis.

He said the recent move of the DOH to accredit six more health centers would boost the confidence of city health officers.

"The national recognition certainly made us proud," Abalos said. "It encouraged us to strive harder. But what it really says is that we are providing quality health services to our constituents and that is a bigger reason to be happy."

Mandaluyong City's 23 barangays have 25 barangay health centers.

The DOH pointed out that Mandaluyong City health centers are fully equipped with sufficient medicines and dedicated manpower. The barangay centers are run by professional medical practitioners like doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives and nutritionists.

The Sentrong Sigla project is a joint undertaking by the DOH and local government units.

Mandaluyong has been a consistent Sentrong Sigla awardee since the city joined the national search in 1999. ***Nelson F. Flores***

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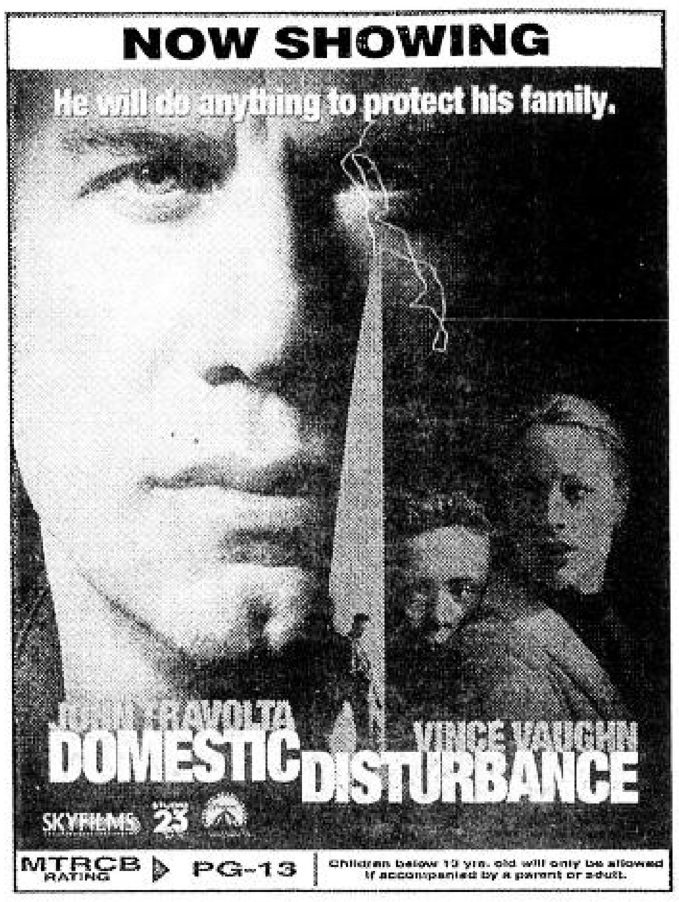

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The Original Animated Adaptation

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

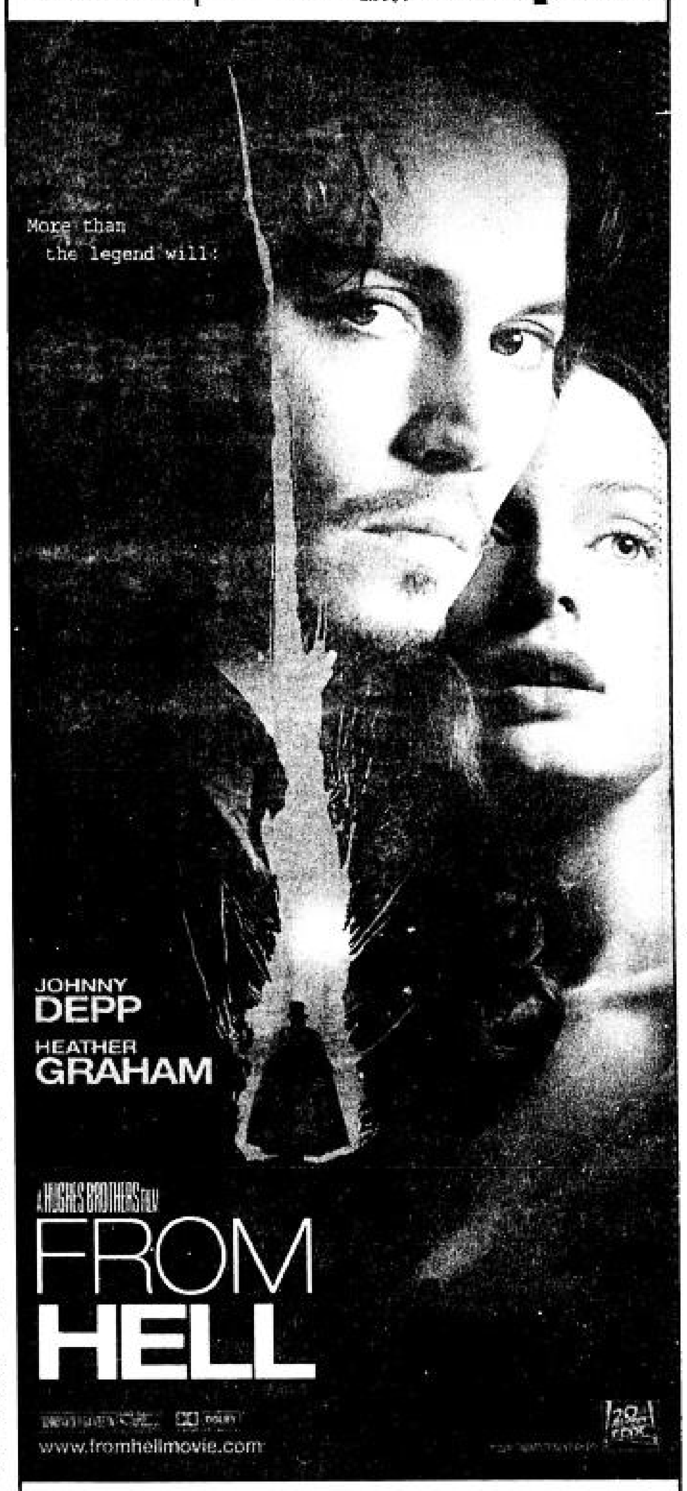
CINEMA 1
BLACK HAWK DOWN
11:20/ 2:00/ 4:40/ 7:20/ 10:00
P 13
Black Hawk Down -
12 Midnight Show at Cinema 2

CINEMA 2
OCEAN'S ELEVEN
10:35/ 12:50/ 3:05/ 7:35/ 9:50
P 13

Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 721-0575

MUSIC MUSEUM
SINO KA BA, JOSE RIZAL? (A Musical Stage Play)
February 2 - 10:30 AM / 3:00 PM / 8:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Special thanks to: 93.9 KC | K-Lite | E | RX93.1



OPENS FEBRUARY 6 !

AYALA MALLS ENTERTAINMENT

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)	GLORIETTA 4	GLORIETTA 4	GREENBELT	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	1 THE OTHERS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 BLACK HAWK DOWN THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 BLACK HAWK DOWN in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 KAHIT IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 BLACK HAWK DOWN THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND 4 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 AMERICAN ADOBO Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND		4 PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 - 8 PM Onstage	5 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

The Ayala Malls Events

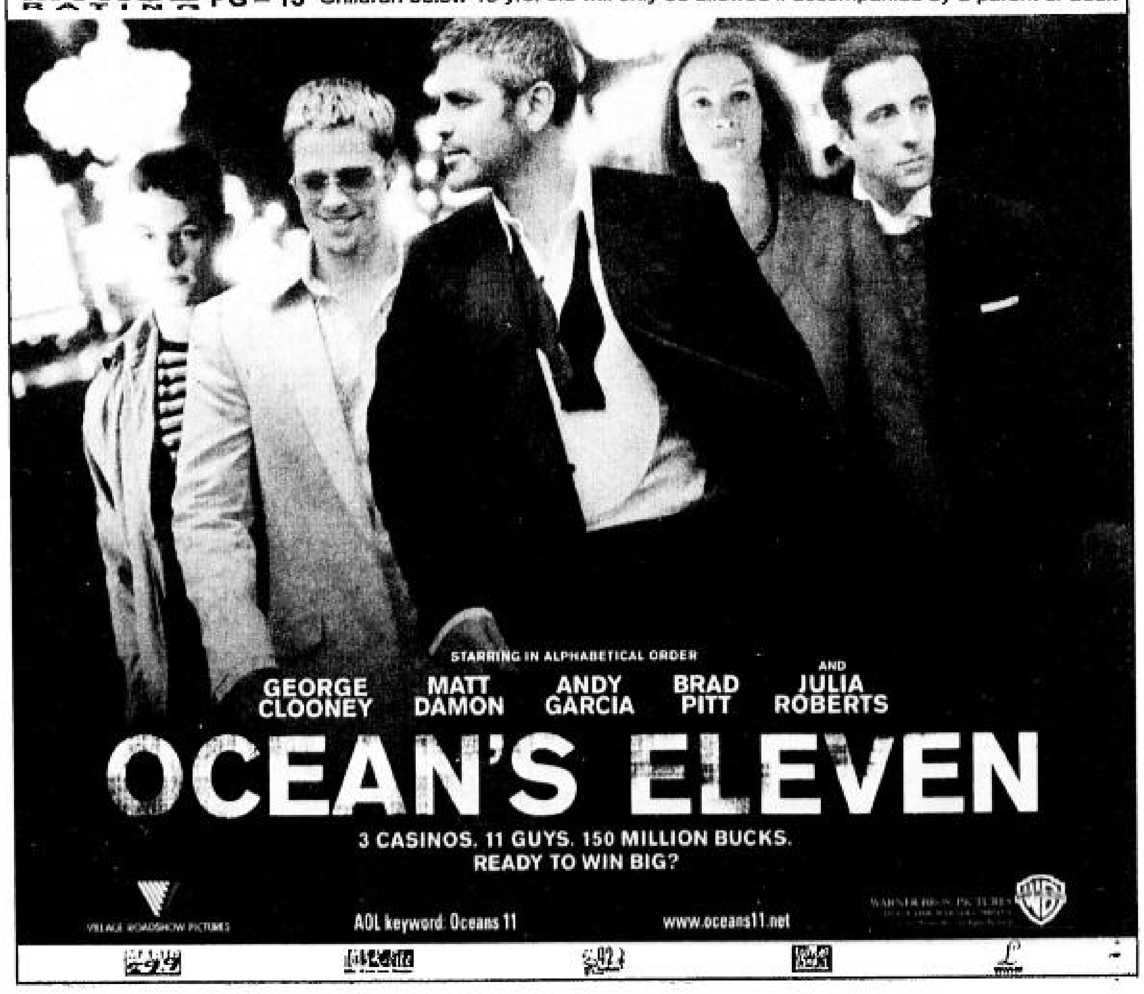
MAKATI
PHOTOWORLD MANILA 2002
VALENTINES DAY AT AYALA CENTER
Watch out for following Valentines shows:
- Shows at the Glorietta 4 Park
Feb. 11 / 6 pm
Vina Morales and Ana Fegi
Feb. 12 / 6 pm
Side A
- Shows at Greenbelt 2
Feb. 14
Ogie Alcasid
Feb. 15
Ariel Rivera

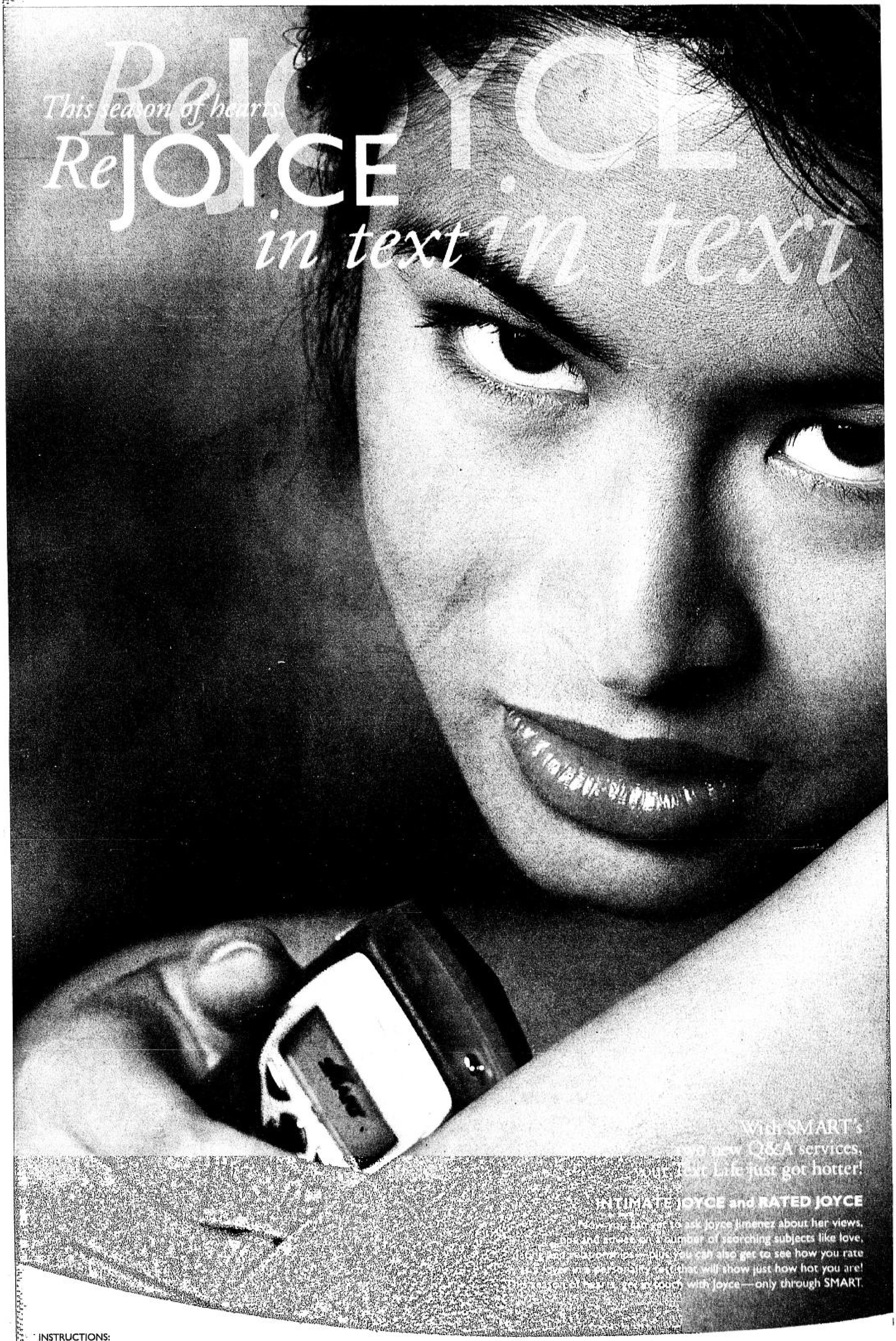
ALABANG
THE AYALA MALL EVENTS
This week's Events
Jan. 15-31
GRAND FIESTA SALE
Feb. 2
ART FOR PEACE
Feb. 2
MULLATO BAND SHOW
Feb. 3
MASSKARA TRIBE PARADE
4 PM - Town Plaza
Feb. 3
PEACE & UNITY THROUGH THE ARTS
6 PM - Activity Center
For inquiries please call ATC customer service at 842-2782

CEBU
CALENDAR AD
For the period of Feb. 1 to 3, 2002
Valentine Card Making & Cookie Decorating Contest
Feb. 3, 10 & 24, 2002
(3:30 PM, Activity Center)
USC Festival of the Arts
Feb. 1, 2002
(4:00 PM, Activity Center)
Fashion Show w/ Latin Band
Feb. 1, 2002
(6:30 PM, Lagoon Area)

Ayala malls. Because you deserve more!
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

SECOND WEEK !
MTRCB RATING PG – 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult





INTIMATE JOYCE and RATED JOYCE

Now you get to ask Joyce Jimenez about her views, tips and advice on a number of searching subjects like love, [illegible] and relationships. Plus, you can also get to see how you rate as a lover in a personality test that will show just how hot you are! This season of hearts, get in touch with Joyce—only through SMART.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Intimate JOYCE

Lets you ask Joyce her views and/or tips on a variety of topics like: Love, Dating, Sex, etc.

- **To begin**, key in **ASK <topic> M** (for male) or **F** (for female) and send it to **241**

Ex: *Joyce: Love is a choice and a commitment.*

Topics: *Love, Sex, Dating, Relationships (keyword REL) and Health.*

All information requests sent will be charged ₱2.50 each.

Rated JOYCE

A personality test where you will find out how you rate as a lover in Joyce's eyes.

- **To begin**, key in **QUIZ** and send it to **241**
You will then receive the first of 10 multiple-choice questions.

Ex: *You like to kiss with your eyes:*
A.) open–like to watch B.) closed–afraid to look C.) closed–more romantic

- **To answer**, key in **QUIZ <the letter of your answer>** and send it to **241**
You will then receive the next multiple-choice question. After answering the last question, you will receive a message with your rate as a lover from Joyce.

Ex: *30 Joyce says: you're a perfect lover!*

PERSONALIZED GREETINGS

SMART
Simply Amazing!

BUSINESS

Gov't eyes higher price for SMC shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT might push for a higher price tag for the sale of a 15-percent stake in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. to Kirin Brewery Ltd. of Japan following the sharp rise of SMC shares alongside the recovery of the local stock market.

"Our mandate is to maximize the value of the shares. We're going to study that given the market trends," Presidential Commission on Good Government Commissioner Ruben Carranza said in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

This developed as the influx of foreign funds to the market has triggered broad-based buying in the stock market, with blue chip issues, including SMC, benefiting significantly. Yesterday, SMC "B" shares rose by 2.52 percent to close at P61 or only a peso away from the P62-per-share purchase deal with Kirin, which has agreed to acquire the 15-percent stake for a total of $535 million.

"With the premium virtually gone, the Philippine government through the PCGG and the small farmers may demand a higher price for the sale of the SMC shares to Kirin," ATR Kim Eng Securities research said.

"Likewise SMC and Kirin may have to adjust the buy-in price substantially to maintain a premium over market price in order to push the deal through," it added, noting that the next technical target for SMC "B" shares was at P78.

But Carranza said that while the PCGG would consider the revaluation of the SMC

GOV'T EYES/ B3

Tariff cuts deferred to March

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG has deferred the implementation of tariff cuts on raw materials and semi-processed goods to March this year after it failed to finalize the executive order during Congress' break last month.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was supposed to sign last Jan. 2 the EOs that would reduce from 3 percent to one percent the tariffs on 1,000 product categories, including raw materials and semi-processed goods not produced locally and several agricultural products.

But Congress had already resumed its session before the President could issue the EOs. This means it has to wait until Congress takes a break starting March 22 this year before implementing the tariff cuts.

This development was a big disappointment for local industries that had expected to enjoy the benefits of lower duties on their inputs starting this year.

The Federation of Philippine Industries said this would mean that local industries would miss out on a quarter's worth of savings on imported raw materials.

The FPI has pushed for the tariff reduction on 250 products that the group is hoping Malacañang would include in its list.

These products include malt, hop cones, and vegetable saps and extracts for San Miguel Corp.; various chemicals endorsed by the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng Industriyang Kimika and Philippine Phosphate Fertilizer Corp.; coal briquettes for Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp.; raw materials for tires and automotive batteries, steel products, electronic goods, and textiles.

The FPI is pushing for zero duties in order to generate significant savings from the waiver on duties of their raw and semi-processed materials.

FPI said there should be no duties on these goods because there are no local industries to protect as these were all sourced from abroad.

Aside from the lower tariffs, local manufacturers are also pleading with Malacañang to freeze the duties on competing imported industrial and consumer products for the second straight year this year.

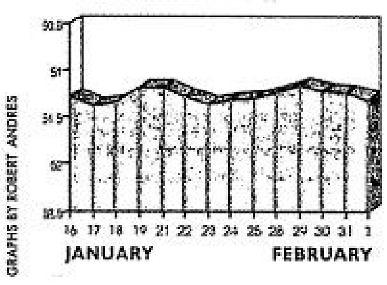
The FPI had reminded Ms Macapagal of the commitment she made during the Economic Summit last year to maintain tariffs at 2001 levels while the economic reforms were being implemented.

The FPI reiterated that the country has already cut its average applied tariff rates on agricultural and industrial products from 28 percent and 14 percent, respectively, in 1995 to 14 percent and 7 percent last year. It said the country was already way ahead of its peers in the World Trade Organization in terms of its tariff reduction schedule. The Uruguay Round requires members to cut tariffs on all tradable products to at least 33 percent.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



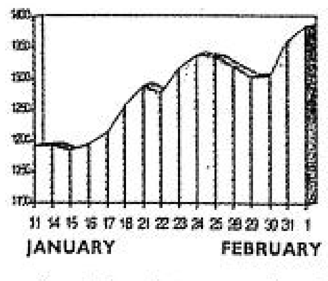
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.31 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 1,2002

¥ 133.94 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 1, 2002

GOLD: $281.90/282.40
per ounce Hong Kong,
Feb. 1,2002

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK MARKET

Good growth lifts stock

STOCKS led by telecom giant PLDT surged by 1.79 percent yesterday to close at its highest level in six months as positive economic news drove the market higher, analysts said.

"This is a continuation from Thursday's rally. Good news are definitely propping up the market," said Henry Ong, KGI Securities vice president for sales.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 3.4 percent in 2001, beating market expectations and even the official government target of 3.3-percent growth.

The domestic growth plus the expected recovery of the US economy this year—the country's largest trading partner—fueled optimism in the market, said AB Capital stock analyst Jose Vistan.

The US government reported that fourth-quarter gross domestic product climbed 0.2 percent following a 1.3-percent drop in the third quarter. The fourth-quarter numbers well surpassed expectations for a drop of one percent, lifting hopes the worst is over for the sagging US economy.

"The market is really driven by continuous flow of good news from here and abroad. We had GDP numbers doing better than expected and another factor was the fourth-quarter GDP growth of US which, instead of contracting, grew 0.2 percent. Those were the lead factors," Vistan said.

GOOD/ B2

LOWEST RATE PER MINUTE*
ANG LOCAL CELL PHONE CALLS

kaya puwede kang TUMAWAG...
... at tumawag...
... at tumawag...
... maski tawag nang tawag OK lang!
O mag-TEXT ng "hi," "hello"
o kaya "i luv u".
O i-dial ang 8160, mag-record ng VOICE MESSAGE...
... at pumili ng sound icon na puwedeng ipadala kasama ng iyong VOICE MESSAGE.

At dahil may leading nationwide coverage, in touch ka all the time.

touch mobile

Touching you more often in more ways.

Powered by: GLOBE TELECOM

*Lowest prepaid cellphone rate at P6.50 per minute applies to voice calls made from 8:01 am to 10:00 pm, Mondays to Saturdays.
Get TOUCH Mobile from any Globe or Islacom Business Center or any cell phone dealer. For more information: Call 808 from Touch Mobile handsets (24-hour Hotline). Toll-free 730-1500 from any local landline or visit www.touchmobile.com.ph [illegible]

ONLY P290 per SIM Pack Kit with FREE P100 initial airtime value and 40 Text Messages.

Export Bank OKs Capwire's ₱939-M debt restructuring plan

By Abigail L. Ho

EXPORT and Industry Bank formally approved yesterday the terms and conditions of the restructuring plan for Capital Wireless Inc.'s P939-million debt.

By signing yesterday the memorandum of agreement calling for Capwire's debt restructuring, EIB joined four other major creditor banks that have earlier consented to the plan such as Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank and United Overseas Bank (Philippines). The five banks account for 95 percent of the telecommunication company's total debt.

By virtue of its takeover of Urban Bank's operations, EIB assumed jurisdiction over Urban Bank's P100-million exposure in Capwire.

Capwire chief finance officer Joel Aguilar said that the two other creditors—BPI and Manulife—have yet to agree to the restructuring program. The two banks account for the remaining 5 percent of Capwire's obligations.

Capwire also gave EIB P4.7 million yesterday for interest payment. The amount formed part of the P52 million in interest payments that the debt-ridden telecommunications firm has made so far.

It has so far made three payments with the last, amounting to P10 million, paid in June and was divided among the creditor-banks that signed the restructuring agreement.

The telecommunications company is fine-tuning the debt restructuring plan which was submitted to the creditor-banks in the middle of last year.

Aguilar said the revised terms would include longer grace period, "depending on cash flow."

For the first half of its fiscal year 2002, Capwire posted total net revenues of P148 million, more than 11 percent higher than its target of P133 million.

Last fiscal year, Capwire exceeded its target with a net income of P273 million. For this fiscal year, Aguilar said the company had a P324-million target.

"We managed to exceed our original targets because of refocusing," he said.

He explained that Capwire refocused on international long distance from its concentration on its data business. But he said data was expected to pick up this quarter.

Aguilar added that the company also focused on bigger carriers which gave it larger margins. "Globally, margins are dropping, but the demand is still there. We'll continue working with our foreign administrators," he said.

Liquidator to submit NSC rehab plan in 2 weeks

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has given the liquidator of National Steel Corp. another two weeks to come up with a more permanent solution to the steel company's debt problems.

This is to give NSC liquidator Danilo Concepcion more time to finalize a debt-to-equity conversion arrangement being worked out with the steel company's Malaysian and Philippine creditors, SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista said.

Concepcion was first given until end-January to come up with his final recommendation. However, he sought more time to finalize an arrangement with NSC's Malaysian principal and creditors. The SEC was willing to grant the request.

Bautista said the liquidator had reported some "progress" in the ongoing talks with NSC's Malaysian principal and creditors that seek to convert debts into equity in the company.

NSC majority shareholder Pengarusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd. earlier agreed to back up the Department of Trade and Industry's proposal calling for the debt-to-equity conversion of NSC's obligations to Philippine and Malaysian creditors.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said his team consisting of Philippine government officials and bankers had a "meeting of the minds" with Danaharta on plans to come up with a long-term solution to NSC's debt problems.

Roxas said that both the Philippine and Malaysian parties had agreed to work out a debt-restructuring program for NSC.

Under such a program, the steel giant's creditors will be required to write down their loans in the company while the shareholders, including the government which still holds a 12.5-percent interest through National Development Co., will have their stakes diluted.

The local creditor banks, led by Philippine National Bank, have P16 billion in outstanding loans to NSC.

Danaharta took over the holdings of the Hottick-Renong group in NSC last year after Hottick failed to pay 3 billion ringgit in overdue loans from various Malaysian financial institutions.

While a permanent solution to NSC's problems is being finalized, the government is considering leasing out the steel firm's property to another party.

Three groups—Cathay Pacific Steel Co., Allengoal Steel Trading and Fabrication Corp. and Voest Alpine of Austria, have submitted offers to lease and rehabilitate NSC.

Roxas heads the committee that is reviewing these proposals. He said the process would continue while negotiations with Danaharta were going on.

IT firm sees 25% revenue growth

MICROSOFT Philippines, the local arm of leading information technology firm Microsoft Corp., has projected a 25-percent growth in its revenues for fiscal year 2002 that started July last year.

This was attributed to the strong showing of both its server and desktop products in the market for the first half of the year.

"We are pleased with our first half results, especially when we consider the setbacks that businesses suffered in the past several months—the tough market atmosphere after Sept. 11, the slowdown in enterprise business, the minimal growth in the personal computer business at 3 percent and the negative growth in the server hardware shipment," Microsoft Philippines managing director Richard Francis said in a news statement.

Corporate and enterprise partnerships between Microsoft and local businesses also helped boost the IT company's performance during the first half.

Among the most notable of these partnerships were the Enterprise Agreements signed with Asian Development Bank and San Miguel Corp. The Lopez group's Manila Electric Co., the first Asian company to sign an Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft, also renewed its contract this fiscal year.

Microsoft also provided data warehousing solutions to bio-science company AstraZeneca, manufacturing firm Unilever, insurance company Sunlife, and pharmaceutical firm Pfizer.

It also provided desktop applications to pioneer flag carrier Philippine Airlines Inc. and Marsman Tours and Travel Corp., and a bill retrieval platform to dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"The downscaling of the IT operations to smaller servers versus getting the old ubiquitous servers was a great help for us. Enterprise wanted practical solutions for their operations rather than hype," Francis added.

Abigail L. Ho

DISCLOSURES

ALCORN Gold Resources Corp. is planning to change its par value back to P0.01 from P1 per share as shareholders claimed that the current price was one of the main reasons for the lackluster trading of its shares.

* * *

BHI Holdings Inc. announced the appointment of **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.** as its new stock transfer agent starting Feb. 16.

* * *

PANCAKE House Inc. announced the resignation of Ma. Isabel del Val as president and director of the company. Elected to replace her was Martin Lorenzo who is also chair and chief executive officer of the company.

* * *

EXPRESS Holdings Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of **JG Summit Holdings Inc.**, bought 427,000 shares of JG at P1.54 per share and 743,000 shares of **Universal Robina Corp.** at P4.45 per share.

* * *

GENEROSA Reyes was elected director of **Concrete Aggregates Corp.**

* * *

CEBU Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 12, 10 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Cebu City Marriott Hotel. Stockholders of record as of March 1 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

CEBU Property Ventures and Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 12, 3 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Cebu City Marriott Hotel. Stockholders of record as of March 1 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

AYALA Land Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 17, 9 a.m. at the Onstage Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of March 5 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

AYALA Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 19, 9 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Stockholders of record as of March 6 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Central Azucarera de Tarlac** were Pedro Cojuangco, Josephine Reyes, Jose Cojuangco Jr., Teresita Lopa, Georg Webes-Hoehl and Fulgencio Factoran.

* * *

MABUHAY Vinyl Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 26 with its record date set for April 1.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Mini Job Fair AT Onstage GREENBELT

Nothing would afford us more pleasure than to bring you the first run of Mini Job Fair this year. The **INQUIRER'S JOB MARKET** carries on to meet the needs of our advertisers in picking the right professionals among the bunch.

On **February 18 to 19, 2002**, **JOB MARKET** will hold a **Mini Job Fair** at the city's latest venue in Greenbelt, Makati — Onstage.

The mini job fair offers packages which we hope you will then consider to join hands with us.

JOB MARKET JOBMarket ONLINE AYALA CINEMAS GLORIETTA 1 & 4 • GREENBELT

If you're interested to place an ad in the **February 17** issue of **Job Market**, kindly fill up this form and fax to any branch near you. ☐ Please call me ☐ Please send me more info

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Address:
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, February 1, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67.5	68.5	67	68	807,600
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	4,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	28.5	28.5	914,100
First E-Bank Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	4,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	205	211	205	208	306,340
Philippine National Bank	73	73.5	73	73	15,300
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29	28.5	29	5,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13	13	23,300
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	107,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17	17.25	16.25	16.25	926,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	129,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	150,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1270	1275	1270	1275	200
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	990	990	980	980.	2,070
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	35.5	37	35	35.5	54,400
Diversified Fin. Network	4	4	4	4	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc	.5700	0.62	0.57	0.58	26,420,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	765	765	745	765	28,150
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.039	0.04	7,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	20,000
Piltel	0.45	0.51	0.45	0.47	23,460,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	270,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	540	540	530	530	172,770
Ivantage Corp.	0.63	0.66	0.63	0.63	830,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	142,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	27.5	29	27.5	27.5	195,700
Manila Electric Co. B	40.5	41.5	40.5	41	1,991,800
Petron Corp.	1.92	1.96	1.9	1.9	14,558,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	190,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.1	48,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	13,012,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.37	1,640,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	24,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	110,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.8	0.8	4,010,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	42,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14.25	13.75	14	755,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	23.75	23.75	75,400
RFM Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.85	2.85	1,576,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45	45.5	45	45.5	215,900
San Miguel Corp. B	60	61	60	61	1,200,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	115,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	130,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	9,412,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.76	1.82	1.76	1.76	892,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.83	0.83	230,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	140,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.35	1,920,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2	2.2	2	2.2	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.84	0.86	0.81	0.83	40,980,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	4,000,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.165	0.135	0.16	2,910,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.42	3,620,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.32	5,090,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.105	10,340,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.28	0.33	0.28	0.33	30,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.18	1.08	1.16	5,734,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	12,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	31.5	32	31	31	375,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.195	0.195	6,620,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
Ionics Inc.	9	9.4	9	9.4	348,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.84	1.9	1.84	1.86	740,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.52	148,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	300,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	300,000
Medco Holdings	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.85	0.87	7,080,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	19,790,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.33	10,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	500,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.41	0.44	0.41	0.41	2,430,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.18	0.18	1,440,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.36	1,800,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	20,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	140,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14.25	14	14.25	509,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	10,920,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.63	0.65	0.63	0.63	1,990,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.42	0.45	0.41	0.45	510,000
Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc.	0.7	0.74	0.67	0.67	690,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	35.5	37	35.5	35.5	601,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	710	710	710	710	7,050
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.88	1.88	1.8	1.8	20,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	745	750	745	750	2,650
Jollibee Warrants	14	14	14	14	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0016	0.0018	0.0016	0.0016	400,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	128,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.5	12,462,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.29	10,880,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.48	4,290,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.33	22,470,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.48	2.65	2.48	2.65	37,217,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	800,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.3	2,410,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.21	0.21	2,990,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.52	1.56	1.52	1.56	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	6.9	4,890,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.09	0.1	0.08	0.08	2,500,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	100,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	25,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	31,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.042	26,800,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	1,880,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.22	0.23	0.21	0.21	4,280,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.004	281,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	19,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	360,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,720,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	106,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	30,000,000
Pacifica	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	40,400,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.11	400,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000

Good growth lifts stock

From page B1

The market opened higher on follow-through buying and surged as high as 1,394.72 points, as investors cheered the news of stronger economic growth.

"The market tried to challenge the 1,400 resistance but profit taking emerged at the 1,380-level," Ong said.

The main index closed up 1.79 percent or 24.37 points higher at 1,386.31, the highest close since July 18,

2001, when the index ended at 1,393.18 points.

Sixty-nine stocks rose, 22 declined and 34 were unchanged. Value turnover reached P1 billion.

"We're seeing technical correction early next week," Ong said who projected the market to trade within the range of 1,350-1,400 points. ***Reuters***

CURRENCIES

Feb 01, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.164687	1.000000	51.2380
Japan	Yen	0.008654	0.007430	0.3807
United Kingdom	Pound	1.642441	1.410200	72.2558
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.149511	0.128370	6.5774
Switzerland	Franc	0.677222	0.581463	29.7930
Canada	Dollar	0.733430	0.629723	32.2657
Singapore	Dollar	0.633154	0.543626	27.8543
Australia	Dollar	0.590611	0.507099	25.9827
Bahrain	Dinar	3.089519	2.652661	135.9170
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.311414	0.267380	13.7000
Brunei	Dollar	0.633085	0.543567	27.8513
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026470	0.022727	1.1645
UAE	Dirham	0.317180	0.272331	13.9537
Korea	Won	0.000893	0.000767	0.0393
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.858600	43.9929
Brazil	Real	0.483273	0.414938	21.2606
Denmark	Kroner	0.134836	0.115770	5.9318
India	Rupee	0.024064	0.020661	1.0586
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.306497	0.263158	13.4837
Mexico	New Peso	0.127364	0.109355	5.6031
New Zealand	Dollar	0.484680	0.416146	21.3225
Norway	Kroner	0.127729	0.109668	5.6192
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019428	0.016681	0.8547
South Africa	Rand	0.102390	0.087912	4.5044
Sweden	Kroner	0.109203	0.093762	4.8042
Syria	Pound	0.022703	0.019493	0.9988
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.033392	0.02867	1.4690
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001521	0.001306	0.0669

MIXED VIEWS

Anti-globalization affecting behavior of CEOs

NEW YORK—Chief executives around the world, a third of whom see the anti-globalization movement as a threat, now acknowledge the campaign will change their corporate behavior, a survey from financial services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers disclosed Thursday.

The survey also reveals that a growing number of CEOs see a value in publicly disclosing non-financial information, notably on "social responsibility issues" such as the environment and working conditions.

The study, based on interviews with 1,161 CEOs in Europe, Asia, and North and South America, was released here by PwC officials at the start of the World Economic Forum, an annual gathering of the world's leading corporate and political figures.

The survey found that CEOs had mixed views on globalization, the trend toward a freer flow of capital and investment across national borders.

While 47 percent said globalization would not exacerbate the gap between rich and poor in developing countries, 33 percent said it was likely to have such an impact.

A third of the CEOs questioned saw the anti-globalization protest movement as a threat to business in the 21st century. Forty-four percent said the campaign posed no threat and 87 percent said globalization was a positive force for economic change.

PwC chief executive Samuel DiPiazza Jr said while CEOs did not believe protesters—thousands of whom were expected to demonstrate against the forum here—could physically interfere with their operations, their campaign could have negative effects on public attitudes toward business.

As a result, he said, the movement could induce "a change in the way they (CEOs) expand their business around the world."

"Most noteworthy, (there was) a recognition that it will change behavior and I think you'll see that in the way companies react over the next couple of years."

Already, he said, corporate chiefs are paying much greater attention to the need for corporations to be socially responsible, as they have begun to link "social responsibility to profitability."

"They say responsible behavior toward employees, shareholders and communities is not a luxury for good economic times but a core concern at all times."

Added Jacques-Etienne de T'Serclaes, a retail consumer specialist at PwC, "the key to the change is the Internet" and the seamless, rapid communication it makes possible.

"If something goes wrong, it will be known and known fast. Today nothing can be hidden."

As a result, he says, it now behooves CEOs to disclose their efforts to protect the environment and improve the lives of their employees around the world.

Elsewhere, the study found that in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, half the CEOs surveyed laid off staff and 46 percent responded to the global economic downturn by outsourcing non-core activities.

But by large majorities, they have refrained from cutting back on research and development, curtailing expansion and closing plants.

DiPiazza said such measures were for the long term. "Companies are not taking knee-jerk actions to respond to current economic pressures."

The CEOs, he added, took a cautious but optimistic view on prospects for a recovery.

"They view a recovery as short to mid-term, coming in the middle of 2002," he said. *AFP*

Gov't to slash interest rate target to 9%-10%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to slash its interest rate target this year to between 9 percent and 10 percent from an original range of 10 percent to 11 percent.

A source from the government's inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee said discussions were underway to trim the interest rate target on account of a sharp decline in treasury bill rates.

The DBCC comprises the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Finance, Department of Budget, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Bureau of Treasury.

On Monday, the average 91-day T-bill rate used by banks as basis for their lending rates dropped to 7.502 percent. Reflective of the liquidity in the financial system, there were P11.125 billion tenders submitted.

"We can afford lower interest rates, and we're still discussing this with the DBCC," a person familiar with the matter said.

Low interest rates are considered good for the economy since the lower cost of borrowing will encourage expansion among companies and perk up domestic productivity.

Based on the government's estimates, every percentage-point drop in interest rates will translate to a P1.2-billion reduction in its own interest payments.

The source assured, however, that the further slowdown on interest rates this year would not threaten the government's grip on inflation.

"We can afford a little uptick in inflation just to trickle growth," the source said.

Gov't eyes higher price for SMC shares

From page B1

shares to be sold to Kirin, he said this would not affect the legal issues currently being threshed out by the agency with the group of SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco regarding voting rights in SMC.

He said the government would control seven of the 15 board seats in SMC plus certain pro-rated stakes in various subsidiaries.

This means that the PCGG, which currently holds a 30.6-percent stake in SMC representing the sequestered Coconut Industry Investment Fund, will control five board seats while state-owned pension funds Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System will end up with two seats representing their combined 13.5-percent stake.

The purchase of a 15-percent stake by Kirin will dilute the CIIF stake in SMC to 26.8 percent while the pension funds' combined stake will go down to 11.8 percent.

On the other hand, Cojuangco controls 22.1 percent of SMC, which will be diluted to 19.3 percent after the Kirin deal, which is set to be submitted for SMC stockholders' approval in a special meeting on Feb. 27.

But other traders believed it would be better if the Kirin deal would be consummated based on the original terms.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said: "A deal is a deal. Besides, the market's vote of confidence on the entry of Kirin was in the first place one of the reasons why SMC shares had risen."

He said an upward adjustment would only be welcome if SMC and Kirin had provision for such a revision in their memorandum of agreement.

Another trader from a local brokerage firm also said the existing deal with Kirin was good enough. "If all traders would change their minds regarding the sale of shares, no trades will be closed. Buyers beware! If they got it low, then good. If they got it high, they're stuck," the trader said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Ban to help local poultry

THE RECENT ban on imports of poultry products from the US state of Pennsylvania should lift sales of local poultry producers, according to the Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators and United Broiler Raisers Association.

"Aside from possibly increasing the demand for local poultry products, this could lead to a more rational policy on chicken importation," UBRA president Gregorio San Diego said in an interview.

On Wednesday, the government temporarily banned imports of poultry products from Pennsylvania due to an outbreak of avian virus.

The ban covers imports of poultry meat slaughtered from December last year, as well as chicks, semen and eggs.

Last year, the Philippines imported some 7,000 tons of US poultry products. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

New governance code

MALACAÑANG is set to issue an executive order this month requiring corporations here to adopt a "strong governance code" to help build confidence in the Philippines and put the country back on the radar screens of investors.

Former Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao, head of the Task Force on Corporate Governance, said yesterday the executive order would be one of the items that President Macapagal-Arroyo would discuss with foreign investors during a briefing in New York.

"The EO would send a positive signal to foreign investors and creditors that the Philippine government is seriously pursuing good governance," Estanislao said.

The executive order will name the Securities and Exchange Commission as lead agency in the implementation of reforms on corporate governance. It will be assisted by seven other members of the Capital Market Development Council.

Clarissa S. Batino

Expressway oil firms

THE PHILIPPINE National Construction Co. is set to issue on Monday the guidelines allowing new oil firms to set up service stations along the north Luzon and south Luzon expressways.

"The number of sites available would depend on the applications we would receive," PNCC chair Luis Sison told the INQUIRER.

He said no other service station would be allowed within 5 kilometers from an existing one.

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132m² Parkplace Imus CVT Lui/Malu 7312632/3726606 0917-8343231/0917-8363876

BAGUIO Pines Garden 222m² Weng 0917-5409850

TAGAYTAY Lot breathtaking view of Taal Volcano w/power & water 244m² P14K/m² or best offer (046)4313851 or 7247621 Pat/Baby

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

LAS PIÑAS

BFR 1.6M 3BR 2TB 8428853

MAKATI

2BR Condo 1.5M Terms Less 10% Rent 2 Own Lipat Agad 8674916 09192176735 5758367

9T Monthly
Avail of BIG discounts to own 2BR, 2storey town house or CS; In-hse financing NO INTEREST Call 837-3034

CCB 1BR 32m² Tel#5612024

Only P9,000++/mo
Avail of only 10% DP to own 2BR condo nr. Mkti/Ortigas. Ready 4 Occupancy ! In-hse financing No Interest . Call 6411782

STUDIO 26.5sm FF P1.6M Century Citadel Inn Makati Ave. cor. P.Burgos •Tel 8230087/09175272166•

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Nr Ortigas, San Juan, Mdluyong & Mla w/ 1st class amenities. Prime units asblel Call 716-7039; 716-7044 now!

VITO CRUZ MANILA
BNew Thse 4sty/3br/3tb/grge
P2.695M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

LEE GARDENS CONDO
Avail Easy Payment Terms Contact: LARRY Text / Call • 0919-3038255 • 861-7699

PASAY

1BR 46sm FFparkng P3.5M Antel Bayview Towers Roxas Blvd-bsd Hyatt Hotel •Tel 8230087/09176272166•

QUEZON CITY

1.8M
52.96m² near ABS-CBN call 924-1402 / 412-5192

★ Brand New Town Hses ★
0917-8349005 • (047) 237-1469

TandangSora Tiera Pura Embassy 2BR2TB w/ Attic P2.5M Call 0446002078

WEST TRIANGLE TWNHS 4.9M FA 240 very private 3 Flr. 3BR all rms wid toilet & bath pls call Bebes 09194069268 or (044) 6626450 DBD

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE
FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED
ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
1st Class COMM'L-OFFICE RES'L CONDO.
B-4 BUYING / INVESTING
COMPARE & CONSIDER:
1. ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
2. STRUCTURAL DESIGN
3. 1st CLASS AMENITIES
4. ACCESSIBILITY - *SCHOOLS(Ateneo, UP, Miriam, Kotska, PSBA, NCBA), BANKS, Other Bus. Establishments & TRANSPO. to any part of M. Mla.*
5. X'lent VIEW (360°) of the Metropolis w/ roof - top S. POOL & Garden
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BUY & TRANSFER NOW!
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VARIOUS AREAS

Condo 4 Sale/Rent
Governors Place 33sqm Governors Place 85sqm Philsystem Tower 22sqm Sheraton Marina 65sqm Commercial Lot for Sale Plaridel Bul 470sqm 100sqm / 953sqm loc CMMRLL
LOT FOR SALE:
Guguinto Bulacan - 204sqm Tagaytay Royal Estate Eagleridge / Cavite - 774sqm Foresthills - 437sqm /323sqm Tel 7267462 or 09175004841

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

NEW HSE PALANAN T#833-0796

3BR 2B 2srvntqtr 8992148

3BR 2B 2srvntqtr 8992148

3BR 2T&B Maid's Rm.w/ T&B 2 Car Garage •Call:897-6283•

MANDALUYONG

1BR Wack² Royal Mansion FF Fully Aircon Tel Le Philip Tan 813-2621

MUNTINLUPA

B-38 L-25 Soldiers Hill Munt. City P5T Call 809-8079

PASIG

2sty 2BRw/grg ne M-Hway nr Ateneo P6,500T 4645147

QUEZON CITY

Apt. Blum. Ext. corner Retiro QC call Myrna 928-7856

P10T with Garage near UP Diliman 09192547024

Project 4 T4407109/4218012

Teachers Vill 2sty 2BR 2TB w/ grge P9T Call 9230184

HOUSE

MANILA

#200 Aguado St. San Miguel Manila w/ gate Call ONNIE (0919)2995697

PARANAQUE

4BR 3T&B 2 Car Garage Basement 18.5T Ireneville •Call (0917)8403214•

QUEZON CITY

2brtb Ktpnan 8.5T 6619727

4br2tb West Fview0318808

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR 9550 Pililla Mkt 5218333

2BR Mkt Studio 8900331

3Br TWIN TOWERS FFurn call Lulu Carlos 8677505 (ofc) or at CP#0917-8110391

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd.,
Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000
FORTE REALTY
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829-5081	872-7603
810-8019	871-8318
810-7183	893-4206
815-2144	776-4604
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Welcome Brokers & Agents
write to
fortereaIty@skyinet.net

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

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ASIA TOWER 1508
Studio Type 40 sq.m.
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VALERO PLAZA 3BR 25T 1yr lease or sale=3.8m 8400965 / 09174114802

MANILA

1BR/furnished/aircon/tel P10T/mo. nr Harrison Plaza DLSU Somerset Tower2 Tel. 5260054 / 2534145

MANDALUYONG

F/F 2BR 1MdR 1 CAR GRG WD GARDEN VRY NEAR MKT 35Th CTC LYN 532-0141 OR 0917-4192637

Paragon 1Bdr Edsa 742-2447

PASIG

Valle Verde 2-3BR MDS RM Call 632-7515 • 631-0007

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Air Compressor IR SSR-EP200 Electric 892 CFM
Operating Pressure 125PSG
Max. Dis. Pressure-128
PSIG 460V 3 Phase

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Model PDSG750S
Engine Model HINO K13CT
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Mr.Villaflores 0979-7711600
or at (02) 520-8051

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MAKATI Nr BUENDIA Ptamo 36/65/82/185m² 1st Class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

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HYUNDAI

MIREA TRADING

NEW GRACE
Musso 4x4 Galloper 4x4
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Cel: 0917-9657482
0919-7518488

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'96 Mitsubishi Space Wagon A1 Condition Call 805-3605

98 Adv Gsl+40T Accs P418T 8221927 09172409986

BnewPajeroV73 nu look
Tax Paid 2.550M T7267462

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Black A1 Cond Chrome Mags Wooden Strng See to Appreciate Glen 746-6713

TOYOTA

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OTHER CAR BRANDS

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HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

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L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

BNEW VAN 8254058 8261045

Cars/Vans 4 Rent 8203894

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8955627

HI ACE VANS 8252988

HiAce, L300 9296250

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-6917(Roger)

MB Starex HiAce L3 8257136

PtrlPjrolLCrusr4530503/09176673765

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ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

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U-DRIVE CARS/VAN 726-1030

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Car Released 30Mins. 8990215

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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One Lot Buyer-
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GERMAN STYLE! Living room on backside
Unique occasion in Kalibo, Aklan!
3 sleeprooms + 2 comfortrooms + big bathroom & Kitchen
Interior: Fully furnished, furnitures from Italy,
Piano, 2 Air-con, 1.80 m. fountain in the house,
Marble all around, frontside terrace also.
Terrace with roof (new), cable TV + Computers!
Plants all over, car port (6 carpets)
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LOW PRICE: P3.8M included a Mercedes 240 D diesel
The car has 5 reserve wheels (L.D.P. Possible)
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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED CORN USERS

The National Food Authority (NFA) announces the availability of Imported US Yellow Corngrains Grade No. 2 at P7.30/kg Ex-NFA warehouse at Pampanga and Bulacan with priority given to the small and medium corn users.

Interested buyers must however pay the NFA and NAFC appointed Cargo Handler the additional cost of integrated cargo services, sack used or container and trucking expenses of P1.20/kg.

As such, the buyer shall pay the cost of commodity plus the cost of services/ expenses in the total amount of P8.50/kg prior to any withdrawal ex-NFA warehouses.

Sale shall be on "First Come, First Serve" basis.

Interested parties may inquire from the following NFA Offices for details:

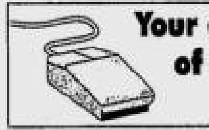
NFA Central Office
5th Floor, Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City
Contact Person: Jasmin D. Banca
Telephone Nos.: 712-1572; 712-1564; 711-7433

NFA Pampanga
Sindalan, McArthur Highway
San Fernando, Pampanga
Contact Person: Mgr. Serafin Manalili
Telephone Nos.: (045) 963-2447; (045) 961-4657

NFA Bulacan
Tikay, Malolos, Bulacan
Contact Person: Mgr. Elvira Obaña
Tel. Nos.: (044) 662-4521; (044) 662-4418

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI – Feb. 1, 2 & 3, 2002)



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•AM COCKER SPANIEL• 3MONTHS PEDIGREE 8160148

DOG TRAINER 09192050852

DOG TRAINER 4528681

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL Tel 721-3738

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6633742 6640500 09174383744

MISCELLANEOUS

SORMZ 2Colors 20x29¼ Call 9283609 ; 4136322

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MISCELLANEOUS

Tower 40Mtrs high / Whouse Frames call 0920-6000392

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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F-ESCORT-0916-4044479

Lisc. Pharmacist •8464790•

Preschool Teachers
10. J. Ocampo, Proj. 4, QC #421-2595; Txt 0916-3180786

Wanted Pre-School Teacher Call 655-0609

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280747

COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
Pasay City
ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES
Pursuant to Mandate of R.A. 7041
One (1) Legislative Staff Officer II (Records Officer II) Item No. 53/6016-1 Qualification Standards: CS Professional; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; experience none required; trainings none required

EUROPEAN HI TECH CO. is looking for a Dynamic
SALESMEN
willing to earn as much as P30/mo. He must be w/a degree in Marketing or any business related course, able to establish credible clientele. Applicants may send resume to Gerardo's IT Services & Resources Corp. 457-A JP Rizal St. Makati City

FIELD OF DREAMS WANTED M/F REFLEXOLOGIST 18-25 YRS OLD 712-1066 / 7123699

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
CALL 1-908-7298627 or 924-1402

•Ofc Staff 9134470 Anna•

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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OFC STAFF 9134470 JACKY

OFC STAFF 9134470 ANNIX

OFC STAFF 9328082 Arls

WANTED PHARMACIST PREFERABLY RESIDING AT NOVALICHES CAL. CITY PLS CALL 9393483

Wanted:Experience Dentist&Dental Assistant Tel 8105191 Dr. Ligaya S.Chan Medical Plaza Unit 1106 Dela Rosa corner Amorsolo,Mkti

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSINESS FREE TRAINING 2554643 OR 44 2569331 OR 36

RTW InventorySale 3738821

WE BUY LANDBANK BOND
Agrarian Reform 10-Yr. Bond 843-5529; 0917-7922363 Ver

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the certificate of stock #019 consisting of 2500 shares of SLORD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION issued to LARCY MARICHI Y. SO was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Jan. 26, Feb. 2 & 9, 2002)

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 9265233; +632 4333446
Telefax Nos. +632 9265234; +632 4333444

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contract for which this Invitation for qualification and Bid is issued.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission-Project Management Office (PRRC-PMO) is inviting all CONTRACTORS to apply for Qualification and Bid for the following project:

Name of Project : Pasig River Linear Park Package
Duration : 120 Calendar Days

Contract Package	Area	Location	Project Description
a. San Agustin Linear Park	3,645.00 m²	San Agustin St. near Carlos Palanca St. (between Ayala Bridge and Quezon Bridge), Manila	Community Park and Promenade
b. Quinta Market Linear Park	2,500.00 m2	Basan St. near Carlos Palanca St. (underneath Quezon Bridge) Quiapo, Manila	Community Park and Promenade
c. Sta. Ana Market Linear Park	1,504.60 m2	near Plaza Felipe Calderon, Sta. Ana, Manila	Community Park and Promenade

Interested bidders will be required to submit their accomplished qualification documents and bid proposals at the same time in two (2) separate sealed envelopes. The envelope containing the bid will be kept in a sealed box which will not be opened until after the completion of the qualification evaluation and the list of the qualified bidder has been finalized. Only the bids of qualified bidders will be opened on the date of bid opening. The bids of disqualified bidders will be returned unopened.

Interested eligible contractors may obtain further information and secure the qualification and bid documents at the following address:

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
Project Management Office (PRRC-PMO)
2nd Floor Engineering Building
MWSS CMPD., Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 433-3444 / 433-3446 / 926-5233 / 926-5234

A complete set of qualification and bid documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder from the above address starting **6-13 February 2002** upon submission of a letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Pbp 7,500.00).

Site Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on **20 February 2002**, 10:00 a.m. at the 4th Floor Department Of Tourism (DOT) Auditorium, DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw, Manila. The accomplished qualification documents and the bid in two (2) separate sealed envelopes must be submitted to the PRRC-PMO on or before 1200 hours on **20 March 2002**. The date of bid opening will be announced later.

The bidders shall submit together with qualification documents a notarized sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with corresponding contract amount.

All particulars relative to Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the ADB Procurement Guidelines and other pertinent laws and regulations. The PRRC-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of PRRC-BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

(PDI - Feb. 2, 3 & 10, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: *sssemail@info.com.ph* • Web site *http://www.sss.gov.ph*

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBERS	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Marissa Amon	Unknown	Ricardo Amon SS No. 03-9298516-3	October 8, 2001
2)	Venus L. Asis	37 Sikatuna Avenue, Urduja Village, Novaliches Quezon City	Prospero L. Asis SS No. 33-1509872-0	December 2, 2001
3)	Nimfa Almaras	Barretto, Olongapo City	Isagani C. Bardolla SS No. 02-0837238-1 03-7319720-0	December 16, 2001
4)	Romeo Bersabe	Not Indicated	Cristina R. Buena SS No. 03-4349135-7	January 24, 2000
5)	Marina E. Cabahit	Unknown	Remeo V. Cabahit SS No. 02-1260612-1	September 27, 2001
6)	Marcelina Llones	Baybay, Leyte	Maximo Decena SS No. 06-0058596-7	December 12, 2001
7)	Remy Andez	Mandaluyong City	Nelson Estifano SS No. 03-8052854-5	January 26, 1999
8)	Betty S. Ho	c/o Standard Chartered Bank 7901 Makati Ave., Makati City	Jose S. Ho SS No. 07-0022932-7	December 8, 2001
9)	Angelita & Susan Lascano	Bulacan	Angel Lascano SS No. 03-2252492-1	August 27, 2001
10)	Fely Rombaoa Marvi Maranion	2531 Callejon I, Delpan Sta. Ana, Manila Poblacion North, Ramos Tarlac	Federico Maranion SS No. 03-2695917-8	July 24, 1998
11)	San Miguel Masoco	Unknown	Loreta B. Masoco SS No. 33-3847042-2	October 22, 2001
12)	Judy Mirote	Not Indicated	Agrifino Mirote SS No. 01-0312215-4	January 29, 1998
13)	Leticia Morada	Unknown	Salvador L. Morada SS No. 03-3082919-3	July 7, 2001
14)	Araceli Narvaez	Unknown	Regalado Narvaez SS No. 03-9243996-5	April 8, 2001
15)	Amrocia Plata	Access Road, Balanga, Bataan	Florencio B. Payumo SS No. 02-0586094-8	May 25, 2001
16)	Danilo & Rosario Romulo	Not Indicated	Eugenio A. Romulo Jr. SS No. 03-0909766-2	August 3, 2000
17)	Leonisa Roploo	Unknown	George Roploo SS No. 03-6277997-3	August 10, 2000
18)	Ma. Teresita Abellar	ayas	Enrico F. Salipod Jr. SS No. 07-0795524-1	May 26, 2001

-----Nothing Follows------

(PDI - Feb. 2, 2002)

Strengthening the Foundations of Lasting Peace and Development in Southern Philippines

URGENT RECRUITMENT

An international development organization implementing peace and development in Southern Philippines is in search of a qualified individual to fill up the post of a Senior Finance Officer (SFO) to be based in Cotabato City and reporting directly to the Programme Coordinator (PC) and closely coordinating with Programme Support Coordinating Team (PSCT) focal points:

A. Technical Accountabilities

- Review, install and recommend revisions on the financial and accounting system in the Manual of Operations of the Programme;
- Review budget expenditures and cash advances, prepares and analyzes financial data;
- Review, monitor and consolidate information for the preparation of budget requirements/expenditures;
- Ensure controls and operates bank accounts (up-to-date cash position and bank statements reconciliation);
- Monitors/supervise, review, prepares and reconcile financial and accounting reports;
- Provides analysis/recommendations to the PC on the maintenance of accounts, budget controls, and financial status reports of the Programme and project components, budget, procedures, cost of expenditures and potential funding problems; and to assist/provide the same technical advise on all project components
- Establish and maintain the payroll system; facilitate the conduct of financial and management audit
- Support the preparation of the work and financial programming in collaboration with the Administrative and Procurement Officer (APO), Management Information System Officer (MIS) and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (M&E);

B. Supervision

- Supervise, review and check, in accordance w/ established rules/procedures, of the Finance Unit and other Finance Staff of Area Coordination Teams (ACT) and other project components;
- Coach all financial staff in carrying respective tasks and work plans;
- Monitor and evaluate unit performance and introdyce improvements and problem solving measures.

C. Auxiliary

- Undertakes financial monitoring visits to ACTs, provide accounting/financial training/support, establish/review systems/ procedures and prepares reports and recommendations; and
- Briefs/orients new staff on the established financial system and UN/UNDP rules and procedures.

Qualifications: Certified Public Accountant with at least 5 years experience involving financial management and supervision in a foreign-funded Project Management Office set-up; able to converse in most of the local dialects in Southern Philippines. A thorough understanding of, and actual exposure to, the socio-cultural dynamics and political situations in Southern Philippines, an advantage.

All application letters and comprehensive resume should reach our office on or before Friday, 8 February 2002. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. (632) 892-4528/892-0611 to 25, fax nos. (632) 8160461/ 8939598, e-mail address: be_admin.ph@undp.org

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

EXECUTIVE SALES SECRETARY

- Single, Female, with pleasing personality
- At least 25 years old
- Minimum of 5 years work experience as sales office secretary
- Computer literate (word/excel)
- Can type & operate fax machine
- Can comprehend & follow instructions
- Hardworking

Bring photo & biodata
Apply at:

292 Jose Abad Santos,
Little Baguio, San Juan

JOB OPPORTUNITY

1 CIVIL ENGINEER

• not more than 35 years of age • at least 2 years experience with knowledgeable on computer • preferably male

Visit us at:
Second Floor, Loui-Gin Building, El Monteverde Subdivision
San Juan, Taytay, Rizal
or call 286-2879 for more details

U.S. EMBASSY
INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BUREAU
PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION

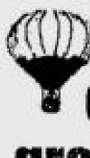
PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used 1990 Suburban Carryall van; 1991 Chevy S-10 Blazer vehicles and auxiliary warehouse building, wooden frame with GI sheets, approximately 21,500 sq.ft. with secured area of 900 sq.ft.

INSPECTION OF PROPERTY: February 5 to 6, 2002; 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at IBB/PTS (formerly Voice of America), Tinang, Concepcion, Tarlac. Submission of bids and 20% bond in cash or Manager's check will be on February 7, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

POC: Joel Diamzon
or Belle Concepcion
Tel. Nos. (045) 982-0254/055

(PDI - Feb. 2 & 3, 2002)



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Manpooling Only
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☑ **Midwife**

YOUR CREDENTIALS SHOULD INCLUDE:
Resumé with Detailed Job Description • CGFNS Certificate or NCLEX (if available) • PRC ID and Board Rating • Transcript of Records • Diploma • Birth Certificate • Employment Certificate • Four 2x2 Pictures

JOB STATION
Company, Inc.

Bring your resumé or call:
4300-B Emilia Street, Palanan
1235 Makati City, Philippines
(632) 551-8495; 551-9406; 0919-8075308

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
Tel/Fax No.: 555-0254 / 95 / 840-1440

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC)** invites Suppliers and Contractors to apply for accreditation for future requirements for the following products and services:

- Office Equipment and Supplies
- IT Equipment, Peripherals and Supplies
- Hardware Tools and Supplies
- Electrical Equipment and Supplies
- Purified Drinking Water
- Printing Services
- Pest Control Services
- Shuttle Bus/Transportation Services
- Surveying and Appraisal Services
- PABX Maintenance Services
- Canteen Concessionaire
- Plant Rental

Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Applicants with favorable result shall be included in the PNOC's List of Accredited Suppliers and Contractors and shall be eligible to join future biddings for the Company's requirements.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin. and Estate
Management Services

(PDI - Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 2002)

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used office and residential furniture/equipment, appliances, computer equipment and 25KVA O'Brien Generator sets on an "AS IS-WHERE IS" basis.

All items can be inspected on **February 4-6, 2002** from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at **USAID Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Boulevard (formerly Tramo Street), Pasay City.** Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on **February 7, 2002** at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

For further information and lot descriptions, please call Mr. Romeo S. Arquisola and Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 831-2271, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

(PDI – Feb. 2 & 3, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
LUNGSOD NG QUEZON SANGAY II (SIBILYAN)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
1101

IN-HOUSE BIDDING COMMITTEE (IHBC)
(GSIS Quezon City Branch Office)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) Quezon City Branch Office invites all interested suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the following requirements:

A. VARIOUS IT EQUIPMENT
B. VARIOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES

Interested suppliers may secure the pre-qualification checklist and standard GSIS accreditation forms from the Physical Resource Section, Administrative Division at the Fourth Floor, PCA Annex Building, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City during office hours starting February 4, 2002.

Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on February 25, 2002.

Pre-qualified contractors shall be informed of the schedule of the pre-bid conference and the actual public bidding by registered mail.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defects or formalities therein, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the System.

(Sgd.) DOMINADOR P. EVANGELISTA
Branch Manager

(PDI -- Jan. 31, Feb. 1 & 2, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the **Land Transportation Office (LTO)** has not sanctioned any auction of motor vehicles in any part of the country. The public is therefore warned that, pursuant to its rules and regulations, the LTO will not register motor vehicles that may have been acquired through any of these public auctions UNLESS the auctioneer thereof is a duly **ACCREDITED MANUFACTURER, ASSEMBLER, IMPORTER** or **DEALER** possessing a current and/or subsisting ACCREDITATION PERMIT from the Assistant Secretary of the Land Transportation Office.

PLEASE BE GUIDED.

(Sgd.) **ROBERTO T. LASTIMOSO**
Assistant Secretary

(PDI -- Feb. 2, 2002)

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On his seventh death anniversary
we lovingly remember

Enrique Muñoz Razón

who passed away on 3 February 1995.

Holy Masses will be offered on Sunday,
3 February 2002 at:

Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish
M.H. del Pilar corner A. Flores St.
Ermita, Manila at 7:00 a.m.

Santuario de San Jose Parish
Greenhills East, San Juan at 7:15 a.m.

Santuario de San Antonio Parish
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City at 9:00 a.m.

St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Parish
Magallanes Village, Makati City at 10:00 a.m.

Adoration Convent of Divine Peace
Bonifacio St., Mandaue City at 5:30 p.m.

St. James the Great Parish
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City at 7:30 p.m.

Other Masses will be offered on Monday,
4 February 2002 at:

Our Lady of Remedies Parish
Malate, Manila at 6:00 a.m.

Stella Maris Chapel
3F ICTSI Administration Building
Manila International Container Terminal
MICT South Access Road, Manila at 12:15 p.m.

"Into your hands, I commend my spirit O Lord"

CEZAR TRIUMFANTE NIDEA NIEVA

Has serenely joined the Lord in His Kingdom
on January 25, 2002 at the age of 56.

His bereaved wife **Cecil**; his children **Roy**, **Johann**, **Ana** and **John**; his parents **Juan** (†) and **Otilia**; his brothers and sisters **Lily** and **Rey**, **Hercy**, **Mercy**, and **Larry** and **Myrna**; his grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence #9 Estrella Street, GSIS Village, Project 8, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 3, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Marikina City.

For further details, please call Tel. No. 4543641.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

Helen Huang Kho

passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on January 31, 2002
*to join her husband **Anton**.*

A loving mother to **Nathaniel**, **Vidal** (†), **Alphonse**, **Conrad**, **Gerard**
and daughters-in-law **Cris**, **Pinky**, **Elizabeth**, **Cora**, **Meridith**

A caring **"Ma"** to
Helene (†), **Anton**, **Michael**, **Vidal** and **Ida**, **Lauren**
Marielle, **Alanna**, **Alexis**
Armand, **Julienne**
Tristan, **Laurel**, **Caroline**

We, her family and all her relatives and friends, request those whose lives have been touched by our beloved **Ma** to pray for the repose of her soul as she is born into Eternal Life.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel. Interment will be on February 5, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City following the 9:00 AM Mass and Necrological Services at the Santuario del Santo Cristo, Blumentritt Street, San Juan.

In lieu of flowers, donations to
St. Martin de Porres Charity Hospital
will be greatly appreciated.

JUAN B. CUISIA, JR.

Returned to his Creator on January 31, 2002 and joined his parents
***Dr. Juan G. Cuisia, Sr.** and **Lourdes Balmori Cuisia**,*
*his brother **Joaquin**, and brother-in-law **Alfredo U. Franco***
in eternal life.

His bereaved family, brother **Leopoldo**; sister **Rose Marie C. Franco**; sisters-in-law **Sonia Fernandez** and **Maricar L. Cuisia**; nieces, nephews and other relatives request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati.

Interment will take place on Sunday, February 3, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, after the 8:15 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapel.

SANCHO R. CASIMIRO

of Oas, Albay

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 31, 2002 at the age of 87.

His bereaved wife **Soledad**; children **Sid**, **Mayette**, **Rebecca**, **Ime'**, **Edith**, **Alice & Susan** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel A-3, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Remedios Madrazo Barros

Remedios "Meding" M. Barros,
a loving wife, a supportive sister,
a wonderful mother and a good christian,
*reunited with her beloved husband **Arsing***
and Creator last February 1, 2002
at the age of 71.

She retired from government service as a nurse at the Quezon City Health Department.

Her bereaved children **Carmelita**, **Rosario & Edgar**, **Ariel & Rebecca**, **Raquel & Erick**, **Albert & Antoinette**, **Alvin & Erlene**, **Allan & Susan**, **Alex & Norminda**, **Carina & Alan**; sisters **Lourdes**, **Lilia**, brothers **Benjamin** (†), **Orlando**, **Rizalino**, **Albino Jr.** (†), **Augusto**, and **Julio**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence #256 Don Alfaro Street (Madrazo Compound) Tetuan, Zamboanga City.

Interment will be at Forest Lake Memorial Park, Tumaga, Zamboanga City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
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CLASSIFIEDS

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SLT-2002-02B

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: FEBRUARY 18, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	CABLE (UTP), CONNECTOR (RJ 45) ETC.	3PTG02-018
A2	1 LOT	FILM, ACETATE, INK JET CARTRIDGE	3PTG02-013
A3	1 LOT	MEMORY, HARD DISK	3PTG01-043
		DATE OF BIDDING: FEBRUARY 19, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B1	1 LOT	TERMINAL CONNECTORS, Y-CONNECTORS	3MAK02-046
B2	1 LOT	POWER SUPPLY UNIT/MOTOR WOODWARD GOVERNOR	3MAK02-030
B3	1 LOT	ENDWALLS, FRP	3TIW01-0039
B4	1 LOT	VARIOUS CONTINUOUS FORMS	3IMD02-002
B5	1 LOT	PUMP, INCLUDING INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING	3TIW01-0024

Schedules B1-B5 bidding shall be handled by GENCO-6 Materials Management Section. Bid documents can be obtained from their office at San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **February 5, 2002**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **February 12, 2002** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
Manager, Administration
Transco South

(PDI – Feb. 2, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
LUNGSOD NG QUEZON SANGAY II (SIBILYAN)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
1101

IN-HOUSE BIDDING COMMITTEE (IHBC)
(GSIS Quezon City Branch Office)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS)** Quezon City Branch Office invites all general contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the construction of the proposed GSIS Quezon City Branch Office Building.

Interested general contractors with Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) classification of at least "A" (for buildings and infrastructures) and Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license of Category "AA" may participate in this public bidding upon submission of their formal Letter of Interest and after passing pre-qualification and accreditation phase of this public bidding.

Interested contractors may secure the pre-qualification checklist and standard GSIS accreditation forms from the Physical Resource Section, Administrative Division at the Fourth Floor, PCA Annex Building, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City during office hours starting **February 4, 2002.**

Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on **February 28, 2002.**

Pre-qualified contractors shall be informed of the schedule of the pre-bid conferences and the actual public bidding by registered mail.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defects or formalities therein, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the System.

(Sgd.) DOMINADOR P. EVANGELISTA
Branch Manager

(PDI – Jan. 31, Feb. 1 & 2, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket
ONLINE

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Boiling issue

Q. Why does water take so long to boil?

A. Any substance warms up when its molecules are induced into vigorous motion. Applying heat does this, and some molecules react more swiftly than others. In liquid form, water molecules link up in an irregular way, whirling around almost like partners in an old-time dance, each group joining others before moving on. These links between one group and another are known as hydrogen bonds, and they're quite strong. This ability to water to absorb heat without itself varying much in temperature makes it a useful cooling agent—in some car radiators and at power plants, for example. If the hydrogen bonds were weaker, it would be easier to break water molecules apart, and water would boil more easily—at North Pole temperatures and below. When that happens, our bountiful water supplies would swiftly boil away.

For the Record. Heating water to the boiling point, and keeping it there for a few minutes kill *most* bacteria. However, there are bacteria that not only survive at temperatures up to 110°C, but actually grow. Bacteria discovered in deep-sea sediments at hot-water vents in the Guaymas Basin in the Gulf of California actually grow best between 103°C and 106°C. But not to worry, unless you're getting your drinking water from a deep-sea hot-water vent, boiling it for a few minutes will do the job.

Past Forward. This day in 1852: The world's first public toilet, a 'gents,' opened at 95 Fleet Street, London by the British Society of Arts. One for ladies, located at 51 Bedford Street, was opened 9 days later. That these facilities were intended for the benefit of the middle classes was evidenced by the price charged—2 pence of the use of the basic amenities and another 2 or 3 pence for 'washing hands, clothes brushes, etc.'.

WORD WATCH

Kasilyas: Tagalog for 'toilet' or 'latrine,' from the Spanish *casilla*, meaning 'stall, booth; pegionhole; post-office box'; it was originally a Philippine-Spanish euphemism for 'outhouse.'

PDI – February 2, 2002

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Cesar D. Mangawang, Editor ■ Stella O. Gonzales, Assistant Editor

HOLISTIC MEDICINE

No quackery for cancer survivors

By Tessa R. Salazar

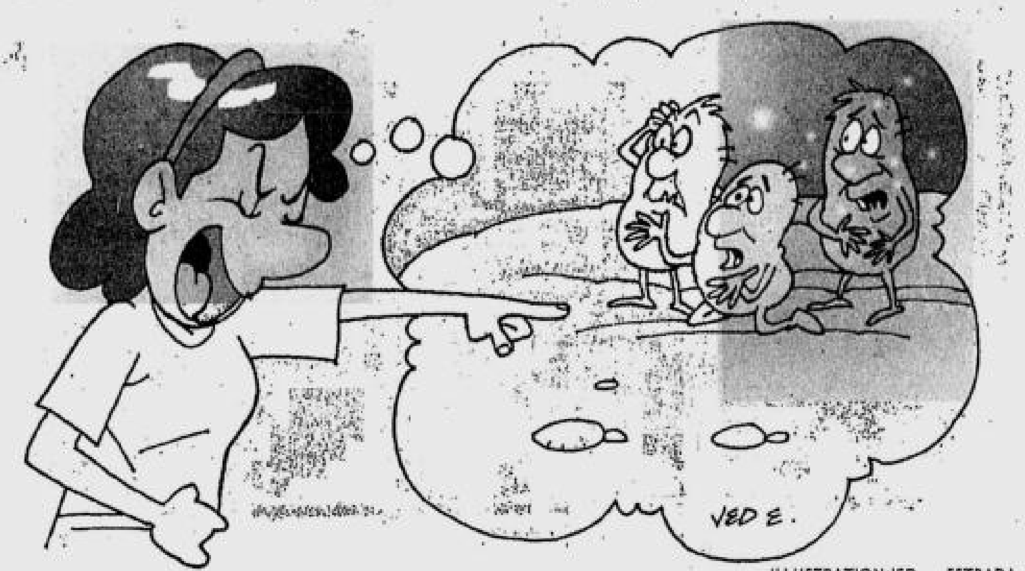

ILLUSTRATION:JED ESTRADA

WIDOW Liza Jane Estalilla worked as consulate assistant in the Philippine consulate in Jeddah. Her work required her to attend to maltreated or imprisoned overseas Filipino workers.

In December 1995, while she was in Manila, Liza Jane suddenly developed a stomachache and suffered from diarrhea. Her condition was so severe she had to go to a hospital the following day.

Her doctor recommended immediate surgery when a videogastroscopy and an ultrasound test revealed a 3.5-cm tumor in her liver. Then a colonoscopy, lung X-ray, barium enema and CT scan revealed a bigger tumor, measuring 7.1 cm, near the colon.

Two tumors simultaneously, and so suddenly.

Liza Jane cried in despair. She could not imagine herself dying and leaving her two helpless young boys, aged 6 and 10.

Another way out

Then Liza Jane came to know about Dr. Omar Arabia, a Filipino medical practitioner, and his work in holistic and complementary therapies, nutritional oncology, family health and biological medicine.

She believed she had found a better way out of cancer.

To the distress of her relatives, Liza Jane canceled her operation, which was set for the day after Christmas. She reasoned out that she wanted a noninvasive treatment. Besides, she said, surgery didn't offer any guarantee anyway.

What Arabia offered Liza Jane wasn't a sure cure either but it was something completely different from the scalpel and radiation.

The first thing Arabia did to Liza Jane was to "reeducate" her on the doctor-patient relationship. The true meaning of the word "doctor," Arabia said, was "teacher." Thus, part of the doctor's task was to educate patients and encourage responsibility for one's self.

The teacher-student relationship that Arabia espoused entailed a long-term commitment from both individuals. Liza Jane soon realized that if she really wanted to fight her disease, she had to become a good student first.

Diet

The first difficult "lesson" Liza Jane had to learn under Arabia's tutelage was the need to completely change her dietary habits. She loved to cook and eat. She ate meat, and consumed fats more than her body could burn them. This was unacceptable in Arabia's "class." And so he taught Liza Jane to eat only fruits and vegetables, without salt and oil.

Arabia required all his patients to shift to a plant-based diet consisting of nonprocessed food, fruits, raw vegetables or uncooked salad from organic products. These foods, Arabia attests, are devoid of the "dietary hazards" all meat and fish products supposedly contain.

Arabia points out the long list of food additives, growth hormones, steroids, antibiotics and other chemicals introduced to livestock to enhance and hasten animal growth.

During the first three weeks of her new diet, Liza Jane's body trembled in hunger. She felt emotionally and mentally unstable—she wallowed in self-pity and was extremely depressed.

Meditation, visualization

Then Arabia taught her the second "lesson"—daily meditation and visualization. These techniques made her overcome the physical and emotional challenges posed by her disease.

She was taught to focus on an intense "imaginary light" on her tumors to melt them away until what she saw would only be a clean, healthy liver and digestive system.

Liza Jane was even taught to "talk" to her immune system, praise it and affirm its job of healing her body and expelling whatever did not belong there. She would "talk" to her tumors, prodding them to leave her and thanking them for the lessons she had learned from them.

All these she did with a cleansing "coffee enema" of locally sourced coffee, a process that Arabia describes as an "amazing" experience.

Stress-induced tumors

Liza Jane was asked to detoxify emotionally and mentally as well. She was urged to avoid harboring negative thoughts and emotions, as Arabia believed these thoughts poisoned minds and bodies.

Stress in particular, Arabia said, was a negative feeling that induced tumors to grow.

The new diet and lifestyle seemed to make matters worse for Liza Jane. She lost 30 pounds in three months. Her palms turned yellow as a result of drinking 13-15 glasses of apple-carrot juice every day. She had to stop working to concentrate on her healing.

Deep inside, however, she felt the opposite. She felt stronger.

Liza Jane also found herself in a support group—the Healing Partners Foundation—consisting of her family, friends and fellow cancer patients and survivors who adhere to holistic and complementary therapies. Her support-buddies included HPF president Fleta Erasquin, who has outlived her breast cancer for seven years, and Felisa Elsa Anonuevo, a 16-year survivor of breast cancer.

Now normal

Liza Jane is now on her sixth year as a cancer survivor. She still takes her coffee enemas, drinks apple-carrot juice, eats only vegetables, and meditates and prays. Her test results are all normal and she now works as a consulate assistant at the Philippine consulate in Toronto. Her sons, now 12 and 16, are doing well.

Liza Jane remembers what Arabia told her during her early days of treatment: "Cancer cells are dying because they are deprived of the food they need to grow."

Arabia, who trained in Chipsa, a Mexican hospital offering complementary, integrated and alternative medicine, said that each aspect of the whole person must be brought into a "harmonious balance."

A harmonious balance involves a multifaceted approach including nutritional modification, spiritual renewal or healing of the mind and heart, plant-based and nontoxic medications, a support group to love the person, and an efficient internal waste management system.

In Arabia's opinion, Liza Jane may already have achieved this harmonious balance.

(In the interest of Philippine science, the writer is compiling a database on Filipino cancer patients and survivors. She hopes it will be useful to doctors in their studies. Please register at survivor1@yahoo.com or survivor2@yahoo.com and attach your biopsy reports and medical tests.)

Math galore

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THOUGH this column tackles other scientific topics, math still attracts the most queries and reactions. Mariann A. de Dios [mariann@compass.com.ph] writes about the concern of many parents:

I came across a mention of a previous article you wrote about Kumon and Aloha. I am checking out schools for my preschooler and I am very concerned about the limited academic training girls' schools have, especially in math and even English. I hope you can send me a copy of that article. Also, out of curiosity, I would like to know what school provides the best methods for teaching math appreciation early. I myself have fears when it comes to math so I hope to find a venue where my children will love to do math instead of fear it.

I have written several times about math tutorials, and generally I believe that children do not need these added lessons. If they are hardworking and approach math with a positive attitude, classroom math teaching should be sufficient.

I also cannot recommend schools with the best math strategies (many of them have different ones).

Nontraditional preschools emphasize that they try to make math enjoyable by incorporating music, the arts and so on, but I often wonder about the capability and training of the teachers.

Traditional schools have been heavily criticized for making kids memorize the multiplication tables, among others, but I think mastering the basics of math is essential for a successful understanding of it.

What I do know is that there is no substitute for a parent who overcomes her own fear and learns math along with her child. Even if you have your own fears now, I highly doubt that this incapacitates you from dealing with preschool math. Why subject your preschooler to tutorials at this early age, if you can spend time with her going over math problems?

I have written books about how parents can help their children with math. Get hold of "Eureka! Thoughts on Math" (Anvil Publishing, 1995) for tips, strategies and games you can use with your child. It can also help you overcome your own fears. Good luck!

* * *

From another parent, John Torres [john@johntorres.net] comes this query:

I would like to know your list of recommended educational software or videos, available locally or abroad, which will help our kids learn math. Thanks.

I have to point out first of all that I am not a fan of software, educational or otherwise, because I still believe that learning math needs patience, a lot of reflection and perseverance—traits which are not encouraged by computer stuff.

However, I recognize the power these have over children and, when used constructively, they can help motivate children to learn some concepts. Do bear in mind though that these videos cannot replace classroom teaching and parental guidance.

I do use software with my own son (3-year-old), but our computer time is limited to twice a week, 20 minutes each. (I hold similar views on TV viewing.)

That said, the list of videos I use with my own child includes Reader Rabbit and Jump Start, which are available locally. If you really want to know what the award-winning software titles are (at least awarded by parents' groups in the United States), you can log on to their respective sites.

My friends Alex and Elaine Tanlimco run Active Minds, a home-based business that sells original (not pirated) educational software, which they have discriminatingly culled from the loads of titles out there. They can be reached at 725-2736.

* * *

Though it is now 2002, let us look at a game concerning the year 2001. A frequent contributor of math trivia is Albert Evangelista [alisevan@edsamail.com.ph]. He forwards to us this chocolate game, taken from the Net.

Work this out as you read. Be sure you don't peek at the bottom until you have worked it out.

1. Pick the number of times a week that you would like to have chocolate. (Make this more than 1 but less than 10.)

2. Multiply this number by 2. (Just to be bold.)

3. Add 5. (For Sunday.)

4. Multiply it by 50. (I will wait while you get the calculator. Better still, use your brains!)

5. If you already had your birthday this year, add 1751. If not, add 1750.

6. Now subtract the four-digit year that you were born. (If you remember.)

You should have a three-digit number. The first digit of this was your original number (how many times you want to have chocolate each week.) The next two numbers is your age.

Isn't this clever? This is the only year (2001) that this trick works.

Thanks for this trick. I am sure many readers know the secret. (Hint: use some algebra). But are we so sure that this works only for 2001?

The case of the scarred nerves

By Rafael R. Castillo, M.D

MEDICAL FILES

MULTIPLE sclerosis (MS) started ringing a bell in many people's consciousness when a popular movie actress was reported to be suffering from the disease. Because of the lack of sufficient knowledge about it, varied questions—like is it like a cancer or is she going to become progressively weak—popped into their minds. Some reports in the lay media pictured it as a terminal disease, others said that it was similar to brain cancer. This is quite a distance from what MS truly is.

Here in the Philippines, MS, described as a scarring of the nerves in various sites, is a rare disease affecting only a small fraction of our population. Statistics show that MS occurs in only one out of 10,000 people who are born in a tropical climate. Multiple sclerosis infrequently occurs in people who grow up in countries near the equator, like the Philippines. Local doctors however see such cases from time to time.

Disease of young adults

Women are more likely to develop MS than men. The disease occurs 50 percent more frequently in women than in men. Multiple sclerosis is also known to be a disease of young adults with the mean age of onset at 29-33 years.

Marie L. is afflicted with MS and she assures everyone that it is neither a cancer nor a terminal disease. And definitely, there's still life after MS. Marie, now 33, has been diagnosed with the disease two years ago. She was working as a sales manager in an insurance company when she noticed that sometimes she seemed to be having trouble with her vision. Sometimes, her vision would suddenly blur and there would be pain in one eye. At first she thought it was just an error of refraction so she had an eyeglass fitted by an optometrist in a nearby mall.

However, the eyeglasses made little difference. Aside from her vision problems, Marie also kept on complaining about numbness and tingling in her arms, legs and face. What frightened her most was when she started experiencing difficulty moving her arms and legs. Oftentimes, she felt dizzy and weak. Marie then became more worried when these symptoms started taking its toll on her job and married life.

As a sales manager, part of Marie's job included giving seminars to prospective sales agents and conducting client calls. However, because of the weakness and her impaired vision, Marie found it hard to perform these tasks as efficiently as she had done before. She also experienced mental lapses. Sometimes, while speaking in front of prospective insurance agents, she would suddenly stop because she forgot the titles of the different insurance plan categories offered by their company. This lessened her credibility and convincing power.

Marie and her husband started to be concerned about Marie's condition and they had no idea what she had. They sought their family physician's help who referred them to a brain and nerve specialist (neurologist).

Diagnosis

After studying Marie's history and doing laboratory tests including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to evaluate her nervous system, the doctor was quite convinced about the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis.

MS is a chronic disease of the central nervous system. It is considered an autoimmune disease, meaning that the body is reacting to and damaging its own tissues. In MS, it causes damage to the myelin sheath, which is the protective covering of the nerves.

Imagine that your nerves are like electric wires. Much like the insulation around the electric wire, the nerves are also protected with many layers of insulation called the myelin sheath. The myelin sheath permits electrical impulses to be conducted along the nerve fiber with speed and accuracy. When myelin is damaged, nerves don't conduct impulses properly.

ILLUSTRATION:JED ESTRADA

Symptoms

Though rarely fatal, MS is often progressive. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40 but the unpredictable physical and emotional effects can be life long. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS differ from person to person, which means that several patients with MS may not share the same symptoms and pattern of the disease.

The symptoms depend on the location where the sheath is damaged or where the nerve scars develop. For example, when a scar is located in the part of the brain controlling the left leg, the person will have left leg symptoms.

In Marie's case, *optic neuritis*, the inflammation of the nerves in her eye, was the first symptom of MS. Some experts believe this condition may actually be a form of multiple sclerosis even if the complete syndrome doesn't evolve. Vision, usually in one eye, becomes unclear or doubled, and there may be a shimmering effect. Pain and *nystagmus*—involuntary jerking or movement of the eye—may also occur.

Other early symptoms of MS include fatigue, heaviness or clumsiness in the arms and legs, tingling sensations, and poor coordination. Another indication of MS is a reaction known as *Llermitte's* sign, whereby bending the neck produces an electrical sensation that runs down the back and into the legs. As the disease develops over months or even years, other symptoms may include spasticity, imbalance, tremors, incontinence, constipation, sexual dysfunction, hearing loss, vertigo, facial pain, memory loss, and difficulty in concentrating and problem solving.

4 theories

"But doc, I have always been conscious about my health. I have no vice, so how could it be that I have this disease?" Marie asked her doctor.

"The cause of multiple sclerosis is not yet known, but thousands of researchers all over the world are meticulously putting the pieces of this complicated puzzle together. Basically, there are four theories that try to explain the cause of multiple sclerosis: immunologic, viral, environmental and genetic," the doctor started to explain.

Many of the characteristics of MS suggest an autoimmune disease whereby the body attacks its own cells and tissues, which in the case of MS is myelin. Researchers do not know what triggers the immune system to attack myelin, but it is thought to be a combination of several factors.

Another theory is that a virus, possibly lying dormant in the body, may play a major role in the development of the disease and may disturb the immune system or indirectly instigate the autoimmune process.

The virus has not yet been identified but it is probable that there is no one MS virus, but that a common virus, such as measles or herpes, may act as a trigger for MS. This trigger activates white blood cells in the bloodstream, which enter the brain by making vulnerable the brain's defense mechanisms. Once inside the brain these cells activate other elements of the immune system in such a way that they attack and destroy myelin.

Aside from being considered an autoimmune disease, MS is also believed to be caused by various environmental factors. Migration patterns and epidemiological studies have shown that people who are born in an area of the world with a lower risk of MS and move to an area with a high risk acquire the risk of their new home, if the move occurs prior to adolescence. Such data suggest that exposure to some environmental agent encountered before puberty may predispose a person to develop MS later.

Genetics may also play a role in the development of MS. There appears to be some genetic susceptibility to the disease although it is not an inherited disease, nor is it genetically transmitted. This explains the fact that there is a slightly higher risk of MS in families where it has already occurred.

Since all these theories may be involved in the development of MS, some neurologists put together these pieces to explain the whole puzzle. They theorize that MS develops when a person is born with a genetic predisposition to react to some environmental agent, which, upon exposure to such agent, triggers an autoimmune response.

A relationship between stress and the onset of MS or its relapses is considered possible. During times of stress, more energy is required to think, solve problem, and handle daily life. For example, one's ability to be patient with family members often wanes after a tough day. At stressful or demanding times, symptoms may be experienced more strongly, because the energy to deal with them and get on with life has been drained.

Assurance

To ease Marie's stress a little bit, her doctor assured her that today, there are medications that slow down the rate of relapses and reduce the amount of damage brought about by the disease. Although none of them can cure MS, these drugs slow down the onset of disability and help prevent life-threatening complications for many users.

Marie can't help but feel depressed as she realizes that her future is filled with a lot of uncertainties. Only God knows what is in store for her as she struggles with her disease. However, she also realizes that if she learns to help herself and regain her positive outlook in life, she will be in a better position to adjust more easily with the problems and changes that are yet to come.

Her doctor keeps on reminding Marie that a patient's attitude can significantly influence the course of his or her illness. People with many different chronic illnesses have demonstrated that when they are actively involved in the world around them— especially in their own health care—their outlook improves. Consequently, they are able to live a fulfilling and productive life, and barring complications, they sometimes even surpass the average life span. The future does not look that bleak in patients with MS. And certainly, they can still look forward to a meaningful life.

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SATURDAY Special

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She prefers life in the country to the glittering lights of Tinseltown

SPACEK. Won her first Oscar in 1980 for her performance in "Coal Miner's Daughter."

Sissy Spacek a hot tip for Oscar award

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—Twenty-five years after winning her first Oscar nomination for "Carrie," Sissy Spacek is up there with the frontrunners once again for Hollywood's ultimate accolade.

Soft-spoken Texan

From the Sundance Film Festival to the Golden Globes, the soft-spoken Texan has already landed a string of awards for her searing portrayal in director Todd Field's debut film "In The Bedroom."

But Spacek, 52, who won an Oscar in 1980 for the biopic "Coal Miner's Daughter" about country singer Loretta Lynn, refuses to be carried away by all the show business hype in the run-up to the nominations being announced next month.

The actress flew into London for just one day to attend a gala showing of "In The Bedroom" at Britain's National Film Theatre along with her co-stars, fellow Oscar winner Marisa Tomei and Britain's "Full Monty" star Tom Wilkinson.

"The Oscar ballots probably aren't all in yet. I haven't been invited to that party yet so we will see," Spacek told Reuters in an interview before the London screening on Thursday night. She already boasts five Oscar nominations in her career.

"I try not to project ahead. I try to live in the moment," said the diminutive strawberry blonde, who may be slight of build but has proved her worth playing tough characters.

Son's murder

Reflecting on the film, which is about a couple whose life is turned upside down by their son's murder, Spacek said: "This is among my favorites. It's like children. You love them all. They are all different."

Like fellow Hollywood veteran Robert Redford, she prefers life in the country to the glittering lights of Tinseltown.

For the last two decades, she has lived on a farm in Virginia with her husband, production designer Jack Fisk, who may himself be up for an Oscar for his work on David Lynch's "Mulholland Drive." They have two teenage daughters.

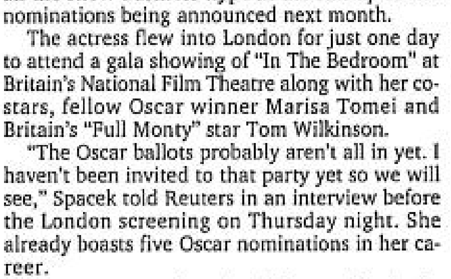
She agrees that life on the farm keeps her in touch with reality: "It has been wonderful for my family and great for my kids to grow up in a rural community. I am known as their mother and that is the way it should be."

Spacek, who has worked with many great directors from Robert Altman to Oliver Stone, was fulsome in praise of director Todd Field, who acted in Stanley Kubrick's last film "Eyes Wide Shut" but was stepping behind the camera for the first time.

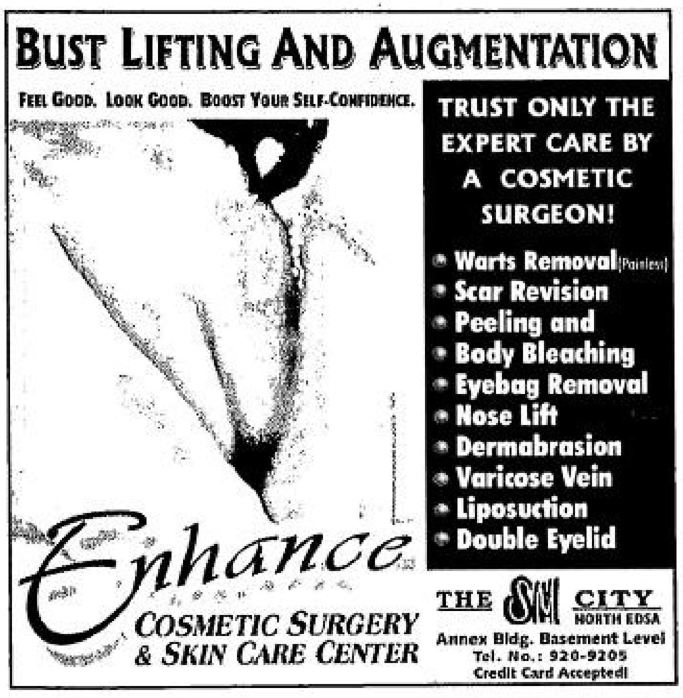
Thrill

"It was a thrill for me," she said. "An artist has been discovered and I have been part of his debut. I loved the screenplay and waited about 30 seconds before I said I'd do it. I didn't want this one to get away."

Spacek, already picked by last year's "Best Actress" Julia Roberts as her preferred choice for the 2002 Oscar, said, "I don't think there is anyone working in films today who would say they do not want an Oscar. It's an award presented by your peers and it has great meaning both professionally and personally." ***Reuters***



SPACEK. Has already landed a string of awards for her searing portrayal in "In the Bedroom."



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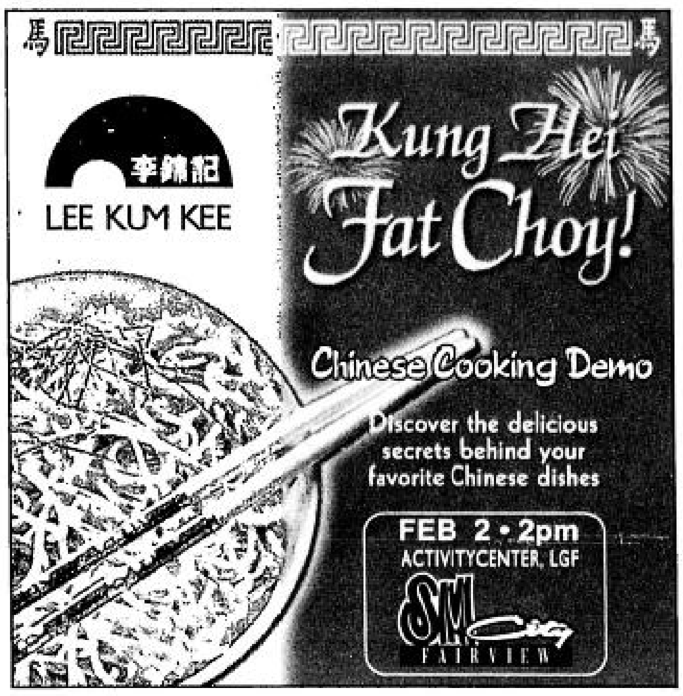

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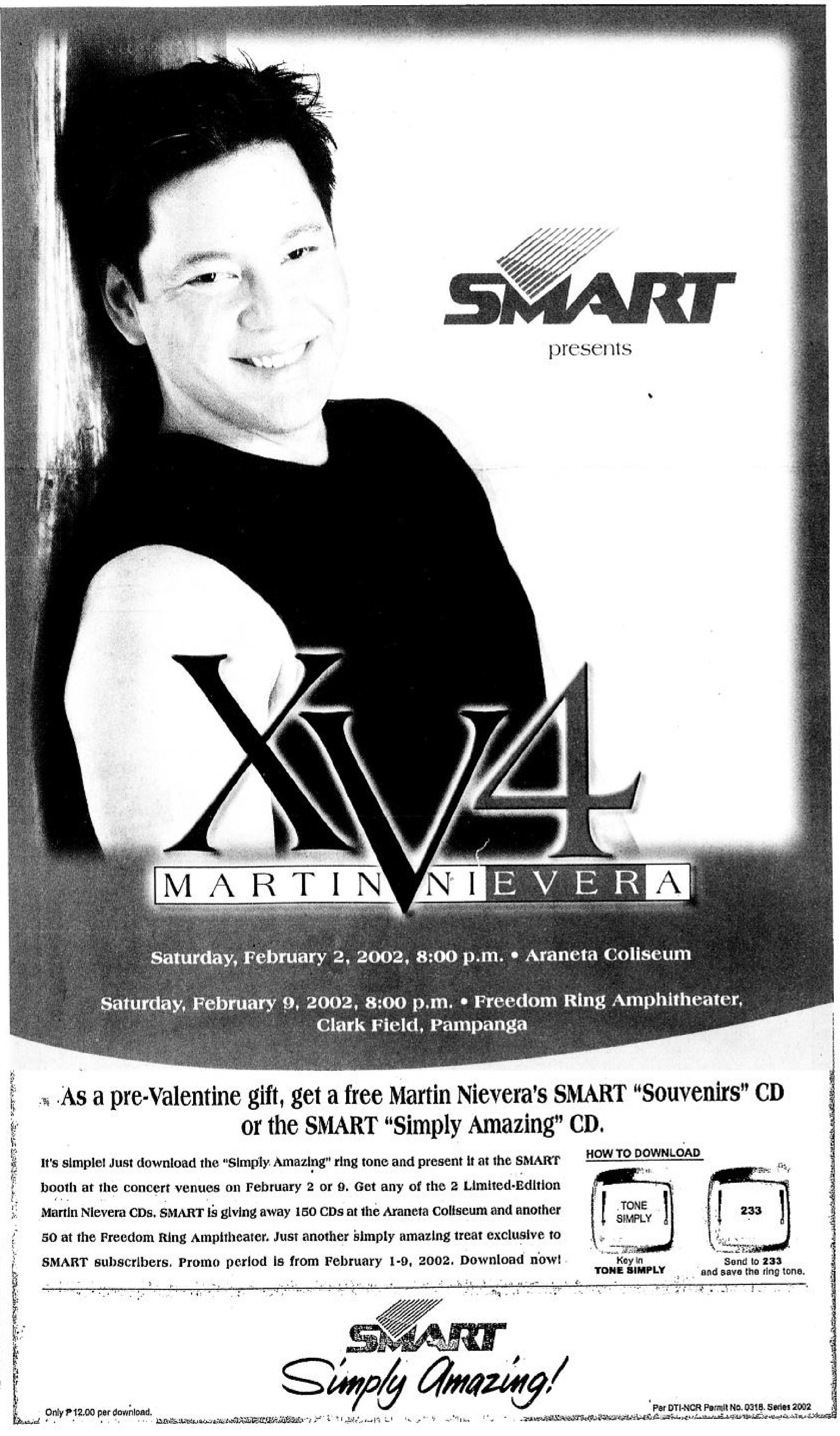

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Screen Actors Guild names award nominees

KLINE. Ignored by major critics.

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—The Screen Actors Guild on Tuesday picked nominees for its top film and television actors of 2001, including cast members of movies like "A Beautiful Mind" and "Gosford Park" as Hollywood's award season picked up steam ahead of the Oscars.

Screen Actors Guild award winners often go on to claim Oscars—the US film industry's highest awards given out in March—but this year's SAG nominees did little to clear up the already murky Oscar race.

Kidman left out

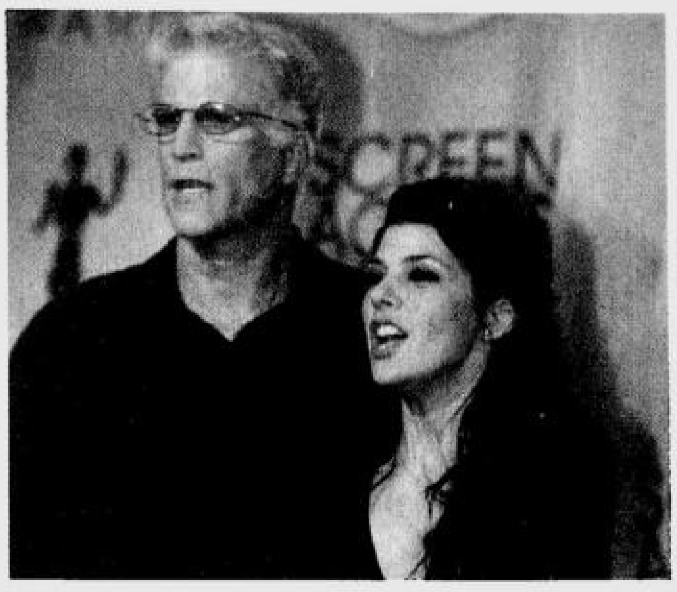
Kevin Kline, ignored by major critics and awards shows this year for his role in "Life As a House," made it onto SAG's nominee list, while early award winners such as Nicole Kidman, playing a nightclub singer in "Moulin Rouge", were left off SAG's lists of starring roles.

SAG represents some 98,000 movie and TV performers in the United States. Because of that distinction, it hands out awards only for performances, and its top category is considered best ensemble cast in a movie.

"The real significance is that you are being voted on by a body of your peers who actually do the thing you are doing . . . It's kind of like saying you are an actor's actor," said Bob Balaban, who produced and starred in "Gosford Park," portraying an anxious Hollywood movie director.

Mental illness

Among the nominees for best cast were Golden Globe winners "Beautiful Mind," about a man struggling with mental illness and musical "Moulin Rouge." Also included were "Gosford Park," a murder mystery set in the English countryside, drama "In the Bedroom," about a grieving family and epic fantasy "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring."


MARISSA Tomei (right), and Ted Danson announce the nominees for the 8th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Like the SAG lists, Golden Globe Awards are considered an indicator of Oscar front-runners. They were given out about a week ago by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. "Beautiful Mind" claimed best film drama and "Moulin Rouge," best comedy or musical.

"Lord of the Rings" was picked as the top movie of 2001 by the American Film Institute earlier this month, and among top critics picks for favorite movie have been "In the Bedroom," and director David Lynch's love story, "Mulholland Drive."

SAG nominees for top male actor in a film's leading role were Russell Crowe for "A Beautiful Mind," in which he portrays genius mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. Last week, he won a Golden Globe for best actor in a film drama.

Crooked cop

Other nominees in that category were Kline playing a man rebuilding his relationship with his son in "Life as a House," Sean Penn as a mentally handicapped man in "I Am Sam," Denzel Washington as a crooked cop in "Training Day" and Tom Wilkinson portraying the grieving father in "In the Bedroom."

This year marks the SAG awards 8th season, and every winner in the top actor category in the first six years, such as Kevin Spacey for 1999's "American Beauty," went on to win the Oscar for best actor in a movie. Last year's winner Benicio Del Toro for "Traffic" won the Oscar for best supporting actor.

Likewise, in the best actress categories, SAG winners have claimed Oscars in five out of seven years, including last year's winner Julia Roberts for "Erin Brockovich."

This year's SAG Nominees for best female actor in a leading film role were Halle Berry in the racially charged "Monster's Ball," Jennifer Connelly as Nash's wife in "A Beautiful Mind," Judi Dench as British writer Iris Murdoch in "Iris," Renee Zellweger in comedy "Bridget Jones's Diary" and Sissy Spacek playing the grieving mother in "In the Bedroom."

Spacek is one of the few, clear Oscar front-runners after winning several critic awards and a Golden Globe for best dramatic actress. Connelly won a Globe last week, but it was for best supporting actress.

> SAG award winners often go on to claim Oscars but this year's nominees did little to clear up the already murky Oscar race

Surprises

Filling the movie category for supporting male actor were Jim Broadbent in "Iris," Ian McKellen in "Lord of the Rings" and Ben Kingsley in "Sexy Beast." But again, that category included a couple of surprises such as Hayden Christensen in "Life as a House" and Ethan Hawke for "Training Day."

Nominees for best supporting female actor in a film were Cate Blanchett for "Bandits," Cameron Diaz in "Vanilla Sky," Helen Mirren in "Gosford Park" and the young Dakota Fanning in "I Am Sam." British actress Dench claimed a second SAG nomination this year for her role in "The Shipping News."

SAG also picks top performances in TV and in that arena, the nominees for best cast of a show went to dramas "Law and Order," "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," perennial contenders "The Sopranos" and "The West Wing," and relative newcomer "Six Feet Under," about a family that runs a funeral home.

James Gandolfini who heads a Mafia family in "The Sopranos" and Martin Sheen, who plays a U.S. President in "The West Wing" made the list of top male actors in a TV show drama, along with Dennis Franz of "NYPD Blue," Richard Dreyfuss of "The Education of Max Bickford," and Peter Krause in "Six Feet Under."

The list of top female actors in a TV drama included a tie, so six nominees were named: Lorraine Bracco and Edie Falco for "The Sopranos," Stockard Channing and Allison Janney in "The West Wing," Tyne Daly in "Judging Amy" and Lauren Graham in "Gilmore Girls."

This year's 8th Annual SAG Awards will be broadcast live to the East coast on cable network TNT on March 10, and will be seen on tape delay on the West Coast. *Reuters*

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‘Black Hawk Down’ tops US box office

GERE. His thriller,"The Mothman Prophecies" opened at No. 4.

LOS ANGELES—Mission accomplished for "Black Hawk Down."

The gritty military thriller ruled the North American box office in its second weekend of wide release, according to studio estimates issued Sunday, while five new films jostled for attention in the top 10. Rather than cannibalize each other, the rookies helped drive overall box office sales higher.

Depiction

"Black Hawk Down," British director Ridley Scott's depiction of a bad day for the US military in Somalia in 1993, grossed about $18.2 million for the three days beginning Jan. 25, taking the film's total to $60.1 million. The film was released by Columbia Pictures, a unit of Sony Corp..

Last weekend's No. 2 movie, the family comedy "Snow Dogs," shared the rank this time with newcomer "A Walk To Remember," a spiritual romance starring teen pop singer Mandy Moore. Both earned about $13.6 million, according to their respective studios, Walt Disney Pictures and Warner Bros. Pictures.

Another new film, "The Mothman Prophecies" (Screen Gems), a thriller starring Richard Gere, opened at No. 4 with $11.8 million. "A Beautiful Mind" (Universal), which picked up four Golden Globe Awards last Sunday, followed close behind with $11.7 million. Rankings could change when final data are issued Monday.

Other rookies

Among the other rookies: "The Count of Monte Cristo" (Touchstone) opened at No. 6 with $11.5 million; "I Am Sam" (New Line) grabbed No. 7 with $8.3 million in its first weekend of wide release after several weeks of just one Los Angeles engagement; the martial-arts spoof "Kung Pow! Enter the Fist" (Fox) bowed at No. 9 with $7.3 million.

"I never thought I'd be thrilled to have a film open at No. 9," said Bruce Snyder, president of distribution at Twentieth Century Fox, a unit of Fox Entertainment Group Inc.. The film, which cost under $9 million to make, should become profitable by next Friday, he explained.

The top 12 films grossed $115.3 million, the highest three-day tally since New Year's weekend, according to box office tracking firm Exhibitor Relations. New releases next weekend, when Sunday business will be hurt by the Super Bowl, include the college comedy "Slackers" and the Nicole Kidman thriller "Birthday Girl."

If "Black Hawk Down" loses its crown next weekend, Sony Pictures marketing and distribution president Jeff Blake said he would be "very disappointed." The studio aims to have the picture hold at No. 1 at least through Academy Award nominations on Feb. 12, which it hopes will provide an extra boost. Among the viewers who caught the film was President George W. Bush, who screened it for the Republican leadership at Camp David Friday.

Mid-budget films

Sony also released "The Mothman Prophecies," via its Screen Gems unit, which handles mid-budget films. Gere plays a newspaper reporter on the trail of supernatural forces. Reviews were poor, but Blake said the movie has generated strong, under-the-radar buzz among young adults. The studio reportedly paid about $15 million for North American distribution rights.

Warner Bros. was also happy with "A Walk to Remember," which stars Moore as an ill-fated schoolgirl and cost under $10 million to make. About half the audience consisted of females under 18 years, said Dan Fellman, president of distribution at the AOL Time Warner Inc.-owned studio.

Women over 25 flocked to see Sean Penn play a retarded father in "I Am Sam," which was released by AOL Time Warner's New Line Cinema unit. The film played on just 1,268 theaters, while the rest of the movies in the top 10 averaged about 2,400 theaters.

"Sam" pulled in about $6,565 per theater, the highest score in the top 10, followed by $5,869 for "Black Hawk Down."

Latest update

The male-skewing "Count of Monte Cristo," starring Jim Caviezel in the latest update of Alexandre Dumas' classic tale, opened in line with expectations, said Chuck Viane, president of distribution at Walt Disney Co., parent company of both Touchstone Pictures and Walt Disney Pictures. It cost about $31 million to make.

Underpinned by its four Golden Globes, including best dramatic picture, "Beautiful Mind" suffered no audience erosion from last weekend. By contrast, "Black Hawk Down" slipped a creditable 36 percent and "Snow Dogs" just 24 percent. After six weekends of release, the Russell Crowe drama has grossed $93 million for Universal, a unit of Vivendi Universal. "Snow Dogs," which stars Cuba Gooding Jr., has $39.3 million after 10 days. *Reuters*

Innovative concept

(Conclusion)

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

AFTER graduating from the Ateneo de Manila University with a Management degree, Ana de Villa-Singson worked with Asia Brewery, then Unilever and marriage and motherhood came between jobs, which included being Marketing Manager for Avon Philippines for almost six years.

Motherhood

At 29, she opted for full-time motherhood and attending entrepreneurial courses until she realized she had begun to call her husband 12 times a day in his office! That sparked her decision to go back to a job.

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Santo Niño Fiesta 2002

DE VILLA-SINGSON. Management degree.

The annual celebration of the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus' 23rd anniversary was opened formally last Jan. 25 at the PNB Banking Hall, Financial Center, Pasay City. The Santo Niño Fiesta 2002 were attended by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad, Pasig Mayor Soledad Eusebio, PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr., among many others.

Last day of viewing of the 500 niños at the PNB Banking Hall is today from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. with the last Novena mass tonight at 7 p.m. at the PNB Banking Hall. Tomorrow, Feb. 3, is the grand procession of *carrozas*, starting at 3 p.m. at Philtrade, passing thru Roxas blvd. up to the Luneta Grandstand.

Mass will be celebrated and an Ati-atihan contest will highlight the Santo Niño Fiesta sponsored by Metrobank president Tony Abacan and Howard Belton of Unilever. Festivities will end with a fireworks display.

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Who’s that ‘Saksi’ girl?

By Ricky T. Gallardo

IF you've been watching the early evening news lately, you might be wondering who that pretty lady taking over the slot of Vicky Morales is. Well, she's none other than Rhea Santos, one of the hosts of the GMA morning show "Unang Hirit."

With her beauty and fresh approach in delivering the news, the 22-year-old Saint Paul's College graduate is clicking with viewers. We're quite sure that Santos will soon be given more exposure, not only in news programs but also in the other shows being lined up by Channel 7.

Lea Salonga: Singer first

Whether she has learned to accept it or not, Lea Salonga is a much better singer than actress. After the mixed reviews she got for her performance in "Proof," Salonga was back last night doing what she's always done best—singing.

Salonga's Manila fans caught her unwavering sparkle by way of her Broadway-themed concert at the PICC. Lea is rushing back to the States to spend the love month with her newfound boyfriend Robert Chien, and to finalize talks with her American producers about a series of shows in May.

Hot, hot Hunks

The Hunks are shaping up for what is touted as their biggest challenge to date: a Valentine concert at the Folk Arts Theater.

Carlos Agassi, Diether Ocampo, Piolo Pascual, Bernard Palanca and Jericho Rosales all admit that they're having butterflies in their six-pack abdominals.

They are aware of the flak that the group has been receiving for not being serious about their shows and making their gigs look like mere variety acts. That's why they want to prove that, this time around, their respective talents will shine more than the bods and the teasing acts they usually offer.

SANTOS. Clicking with viewers.

Monday-night winners

The competition heats up every Monday between "I-Witness" of Channel 7 and "The Correspondents" of Channel 2. Last Monday, we caught their respective features and liked both.

"I-Witness" had Jay Taruc exploring the private world of go-go boys, more commonly known to the locals as macho dancers. Taruc's feature was comprehensive and entertaining at the same time, although he could have been more selective with his subjects.

We reckon that although a few of the subjects like Helen Vela's prodigal son Ben and the motorcycle-riding AJ were interesting and sincere, the others were just mere add-ons to make the segment a full episode.

On the other hand, Karen Davila's "The Correspondents" segment on local teachers who dream of teaching in America scored high in terms of the honesty and eloquence of the subjects featured, and Davila's ability to draw out the emotions of her subjects, which gave the otherwise bland topic a lot of flavor and color.

‘Music for Life’ album is a mixed bag of OPM treats

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

"MUSIC for Life" also features Agot Isidro's rendition of "Panaginip" from her "Best of Me" album. The singing is so-so, nothing spectacular. The song is simple and it's dangerously close to corn-dom, but it's not quite there, thank God.

Hajji Alejandro's "Panakip-Butas," from his "25: The Silver Anniversary Album," isn't exactly something we'd listen to in other circumstances but it was good, nevertheless. He has a grand voice and we found this song to be a refreshing change from the usual sappy stuff.

Louie Ocampo's "Patricia's Lullaby" follows. After about a minute of purely sentimental music, we were thinking that he'd put in an extra-long intro. It wasn't until half a minute later that we realized that there wasn't going to be any singing.

Soft and easy

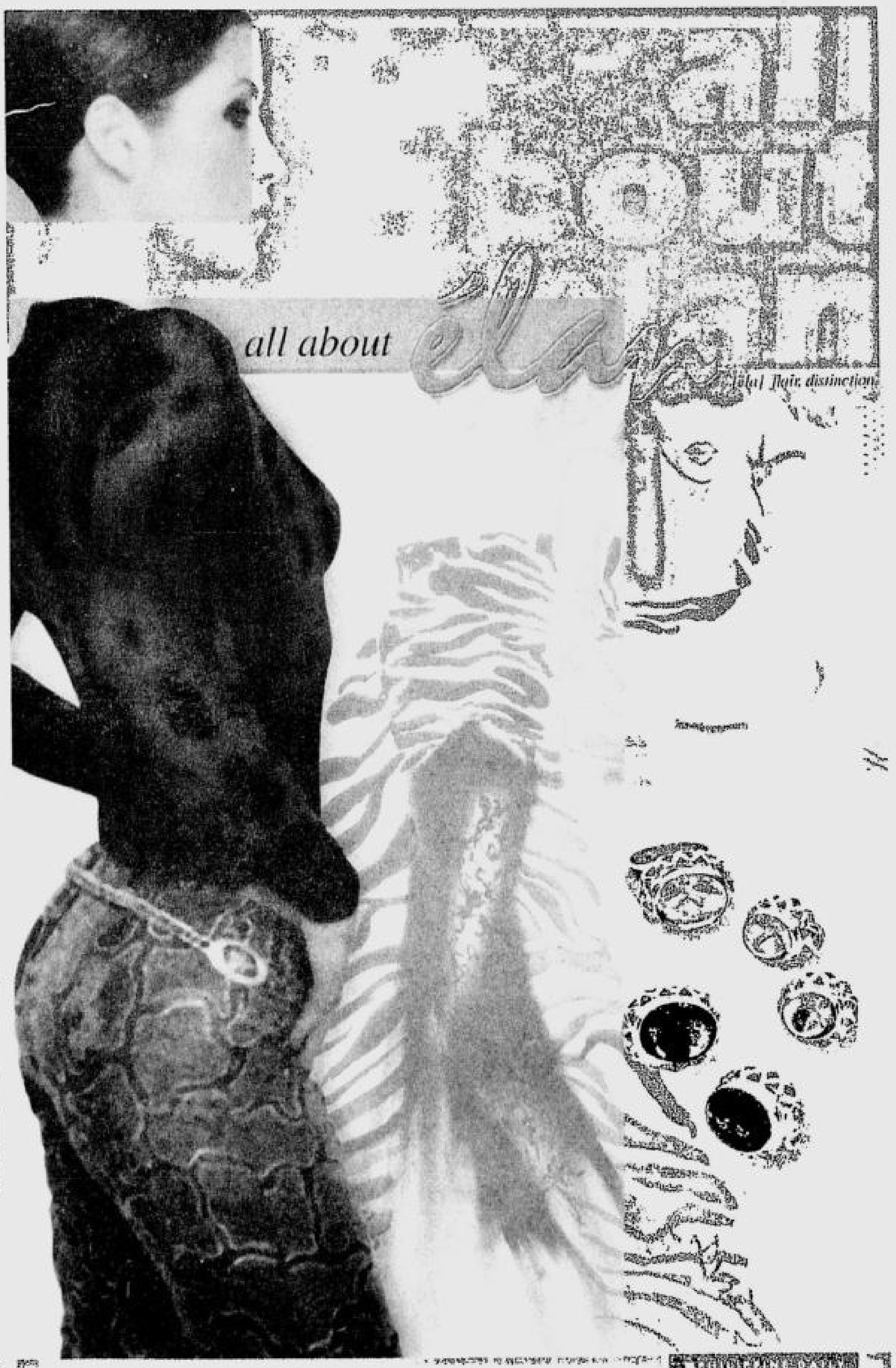
Anyway, we like this one, too—soft and easy, with just a light touch of melancholy. However, we're not overly fond of synthesizer effects outside of jazz.

Fourmula's "Kunin Mo Na Ang Lahat Sa Akin," from their "Fourmula One" album, was also kind of a surprise to hear—because, unlike other love songs, it does not address the loved one but the rival. Anyway, we found it funny, which probably wasn't the songwriter's intent.

The last track, Reigndance's "All I Need" from their album "Reigndance" is another so-so song. Sentimental, like the majority of the songs in this collection, it isn't particularly memorable and we must confess that we were a bit irritated by the constant repetition of "All I need is love."

All in all, the collection isn't hard to listen to. It's easy on the ears 95 percent of the time. We don't think it's "music for life," though.

ALEJANDRO. Grand voice.



Every Second Saturday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer
INQUIRER

Drew Barrymore makes her new starrer worth the ride

By Chris Schlegel

DREW Barrymore will be the first to tell you she's a tad touchy-feely. "Mass proportions, as big as the sea," is how the 26-year-old describes her sensitivity. Actress Brittany Murphy readily agrees, calling Barrymore a "true innocent" and a "person with pure intentions."

BARRYMORE. Cathartic conversations with her mom.

Pregnant

In her latest movie, Columbia Pictures' romantic-comedy "Riding in Cars with Boys," Barrymore plays Beverly D'Onofrio, a young woman who dreams of becoming a writer but settles for changing diapers when she becomes pregnant at age 15. The film follows the various peaks and valleys of D'Onofrio's life, through age 36. Barrymore calls it her most challenging role to date. Q and A:

Your character in this film is this tough, unapologetic woman, who's pretty unlikable a lot of the time—completely unlike the usual sunny roles you play.

It was hard. For eight months, I didn't have a life outside work. I was this woman, and that was hard. You're right—she's not a nice person a lot of the time.

Pollyanna

She resented her child a lot of the time; she ignored him; she screamed at him. And that's not me. I'm more of a Pollyanna kind of person. I'd have to stay in my trailer most of the time just to stay focused.

Which was harder to play, 15 or 36?

Definitely 36. I remember being young and rebellious and outrageous, but to be a woman at 36 and have a grown child… that was scary. I haven't experienced that. In fact, everything about this woman was pretty much outside my experience. I'm really just a happy Valley girl, and that went out the window the first day of shooting.

Penny Marshall, your director, made you audition. Were you okay with that?

I would have made me audition, too. She'd never seen me play anything like this role, so I can understand why she'd have her doubts.

She says she rode you pretty hard through the shoot.

She scared the hell out of me at first. And I used that. We filmed pretty much in sequence, so when I was playing a scared, intimidated 15-year-old, I just channeled all my fear of Penny into the character. But there did come a time later on—when we were doing the scenes when Beverly was 36—that I asked Penny, "Okay, can you be nice to me now? Can we have a mature relationship?

The movie kind of turns on the line: "One day can make your life; one day can ruin your life. All life is, is four or five big days that change everything." You must have compiled your own list of days.

I had a day when I was 14… It's going to sound crazy, but I was put in an institution, and, when I got out, I realized how lucky I was, and that everything is a gift, and that you have to be responsible for yourself.

Husband

The day I met my husband changed my life. God, *today* is changing my life! You find yourself at forks in the road, and the paths you choose change the direction of your life—the whole course of it. It's amazing how people respond to that line, how much it affects them.

You only named a couple, so obviously you're saving a couple for the future. Maybe giving birth?

Absolutely. Doing this movie made me think about motherhood a lot. I don't take it as it as lightly as I used to. It's not playing dolls; it's not house. It's not about you, actually. It's about another human being. And you're trying to be the best person you are, ideally, but we're all flawed and selfish. You try to be as selfless as possible, I guess. Sometimes I just wonder if I'll be able to do it. It's an awesome responsibility.

You and your own mother have had a turbulent relationship. Did making this movie give you any insight into where she was coming from?

I really started to figure out my mother. I started seeing her point of view, not looking at them the way I always have, as a victimized child. It wasn't easy on my mom, me being a child actor. She was confused, and I was confused. We both made mistakes.

Are you talking now?

Every once in a while… and it's thanks to this movie. We had some really cathartic conversations. We have forgiven each other. I used to think she was so kooky and weird. I accept it now. I don't freak out anymore.

Guilt

This movie made me kick that bag, and you can't believe the incredible weight that has been lifted off my shoulders. I used to have so much guilt and pain, especially on birthdays and holidays—days when I wasn't talking to the person who gave birth to me.

Any other lessons life has taught you lately?

The singer Beck has that great lyric, "And my bags are waiting in the next life." I think it's true. Everything we do from past lives to present to future lives will affect everything around us. Hopefully, knowing that makes you a gentler person. It works most of the time for me.

Can love survive 'Temptation Island'?

By Nestor U. Torre

EVERY Sunday night at 9:30 p.m., Studio 23 telecasts the "sexy" game show, "Temptation Island." The program is both popular and controversial—popular because it banks heavily on the fact that its contestant couples are in love with each other, and yet controversial because the game show seeks to test that love with heavy doses of erotic temptation.

Four couples

Here's how the "game" works: four couples are taken to a secluded island and separated for two weeks, during which the menfolk date some sexy women, and the female contestants are wooed by some hunky males.

The idea is to see if the romantic partners' love for each other is strong enough to withstand all of that seductive allure, plus the unrequited urges brought about by their two-week separation.

At first, the couples are dead-sure that their love will survive. Some days (and nights) into the game, however, some of them are no longer all that certain. In fact, by the game's third installment, some of the male contestants are already romancing their new partners.

Ultimate decision

This is the show's avowed point: to test the couples to the limit to see what the "weakest links" are in their relationships. The realization is supposed to guide the partners in their ultimate decision whether or not to take their relationship all the way to the altar.

Fine, but the methods that the game show employs are excessively cynical, manipulative and even crass, at least as far as this viewer is concerned. The show purports to care about the romantic couples, but in fact it toys with their feelings, even when the contestants are at their most vulnerable.

It also encourages the contestants to be hypocritical, on the one hand professing undying devotion to their partners, while laying themselves wide open to the sexy tempters and temptresses the show has laid out for them, on the other.

It may be said that there's nothing especially reprehensible taking place here, since this behavior is par for the course in the States, where some lovers change partners at a moment's notice, and the majority of marriages end in divorce.

Cynicism

But the show heightens the feeling of weakness and cynicism by showcasing this impermanence of love on international television. And its use of scrumptious couples and seducers makes the cynical game seen exciting and "sinfully" attractive.

Granted, the contestants are exploited with their consent, but the acquiescence isn't all that clear, since the couples aren't told everything that they're in for before they join the game.

That's why, when each test is announced, some of them break into tears and look like they're being asked to do more than they had originally bargained for.

The show's exploitation of sex and lust is also off-putting. The "tempters" display their abundant physical charms and shake their booty with cynical abandon. And it's sad to see that their idea of success is to break up a formerly loving couple's serious relationship. What a hollow victory that turns out to be!

Franco Laurel launches album tomorrow

MONTAGE

FRANCO Laurel launches his new album, "With You" on "ASAP" tomorrow on ABS-CBN. The album is a collection of originals by songwriters like Edith Gallardo, Jimmy Borja, Danny Tan, Dodjie Simon, Lito Villareal, Moy Ortiz, Baby Gil and Trina Belamide.

The carrier single is "With You," Franco's duet with his wife Ayen. A music video directed by Jun Reyes is already airing on TV.

'Romeo and Juliet'

Just in time for Valentine's Day, singer Lance Raymundo stars opposite Adriana Agcaoili in William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" on Feb. 8 at the AFP Theater at 8 p.m.

The Gantimpala Theater production also stars Bodjie Pascua, Bonggoy Manahan, Mia Gutierrez, Linda Lupton and Miguel Vasquez.

To create the proper ambience for the performance, the Sonata String Quartet will play romantic songs at the lobby of the theatre. A special number will be rendered by Ladine Roxas.

The Hunks at FAT

Have a rendezvous with The Hunks as they talk and sing about love in a Valentine's concert, "Hunks: First Time Mo?—The 'Virgin' Valentine Concert" on Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. at the Folk Arts Theatre.

Special guests are Ai Ai delas Alas, Kristine Hermosa, Patricia Javier, John Lapus, Maxine and Rica Peralejo.

The show is directed by Johnny Manahan with musical direction by Homer Flores. Call 634-7773.

Natural mall tour

Antoinette Taus will be the special guest of Natural, the latest discovery of boy band impresario Lou Pearlman in its campus and mall tour series starting Feb. 5 at the SM Megamall at 5 p.m. and at Tower Glorietta at 8 p.m. They will also perform on Feb. 6 at Robinsons Manila at 4 p.m. and SM Manila at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 7 at Robinsons Galleria, at 5 p.m. followed by a visit to Odyssey Galleria, and Feb. 8 at the Assumption College Fair at 5 p.m. and Feb. 9 at Streetlife Glorietta at 9 p.m.

RAYMUNDO. Gantimpala Theater's Romeo.

Jose Mari Chan on 'S.O.P.'

Jose Mari Chan will perform his latest single, "Easier Said Than Done" from the album "A Heart's Journey" tomorrow on GMA's Sunday noontime show "S.O.P."

Ryan Cayabyab's new album

Maestro Ryan Cayabyab has just released his second *a cappella* album, "One More"

The album includes Ryan's *a cappella* versions of his compositions "Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang," "Da Coconut Nut," "Kailan," "Sa May Bintana." ***(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)***

Bong's boneless bangus is a bestseller

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

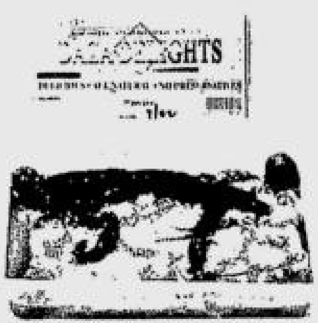
JUST like all of us, my brother Bong loves to eat, and is willing to try anything. Problem is, when he likes something, he eats it everyday. There was a time when he was eating fried porkchops marinated in garlic and soy sauce, *adobong kangkong* and boiled rice for almost a year! Realizing it to be unhealthy, he changed that menu.

Story

I have to tell you this story: I remember when we used to throw Mongolian parties almost once a month. In those parties, whenever there were left-overs, I would have them cooked and frozen, to be consumed in one of our midnight binges.

Being two bachelors living together, we tried to manage the two-bedroom apartment as best we could. One late night, Bong came home hungry and a bit tipsy from partying. He went straight to the freezer, got a frozen and cooked Mongolian meal (try to imagine what this looks like) and popped it into the microwave oven for a minute and a half. He consumed the meal and went off to dreamland.

The next day, I went down and our househelp, Isabel came to me with a confused look and asked, *"Sir, sino ho ang kumain ng pagkain ni Yola?"* (Yola is our pet German Shepherd. If memory serves me right, it was *Yola* who got sick after the incident!)



BONELESS ***Bangus a la Viscayna.***

Health freak

Today, Bong is a health freak. His everyday meal is boneless *bangus*, *kangkong* and rice. So good is his *bangus*, he now packs it and sells it. It is a bestseller at Rustan's supermarket.

It goes under the name Daza Delights, and is called Boneless *Bangus ala Viscayna*. It is steamed, plump, boneless *bangus* with a sauce made of olive oil, bell pepper, herbs and spices.

This creation is by my mother Nora and Bong has made a few adjustments. The dish is healthy, inexpensive and really delicious. This boneless filet can easily feed two to three people.

Just pop it in the microwave and heat it for a minute and a half, and you can have a wonderful meal. In these times when everyone is so busy, convenience is the key. Something like this will do wonders for the busy and health-conscious. *Masarap pa!*

Today, Bong no longer has to worry about those unhealthy midnight binges. He is well-stocked with this winner, *Bangus ala Viscayna*. I wish I can say the same about the dog!

For inquiries, call Tel. 817-4561, 815-2036. Happy eating!

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB 2 - FEB 8

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Final Drive 6:30 Auto Review 7:00 Barcelona Battle of the Gold Medalists 9:00 Fox News 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Auto Focus 12:00 Fox News	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Super S 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Eezy Dancing 10:30 Saturday Night Specials	5:30 Pokemon 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Special Unit II 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Tom Hanks* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 FYE *Mama Mia* 9:30 FYE *Forever Tango* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Liam Neeson*
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 NBA 11:00 Business & Leisure 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night 11:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 K! 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Where In Time Is Carmen San Diego 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Murder in Small town X 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Married with Children* 9:00 E! Special *Vanilla Sky Premiere* 10:00 In Focus *Celebrity Spas* 11:00 60 minutes
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 FPJ Action Cinema 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Fox News 10:30 Unlimited Diving 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Touched By An Angel 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Artiss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:00 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Vegas Showgirls* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild On *Hong Kong*
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[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Whattamen 10:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Private Conversation	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Friends 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Philippines Most Wanted	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Ben Bola Nga 10:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Level 9 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Bully the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:00 Behind The Music 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:00 Primetime Classics 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Thailand*
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[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Concert at the Park 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Larel Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:00 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 Largo 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:30 Halo-Halo 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 Oh Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On Hawaii 12:00 Talk Soup

'Promises, Promises' in the '70s remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST week, I read that the '60s musical, "Promises, Promises," would be performed again in the Philippines this month, with Michael Williams, Rachel Alejandro and Lee Robin Salazar playing the lead roles. The report interested me because it brought back vivid memories of my own involvement in the musical by Hal David (?) and Burt Bacharach the first time it was staged in Manila, way back in the '70s.

Directors

That was the time when I was acting in one play after another, for such ace directors as Rolando Tinio, Zeneida Amador, Bert and Daisy Avellana, Behn Cervantes, Joey Gosiengfiao and Jonas Sebastian. I went from drama to comedy and back again, and although I didn't have a great singing voice, I starred in some musicals as well ("Oliver!," "The Fantastics," "A Chorus Line," "Guys and Dolls," etc.)

Yes, those were the days when directors thought that, to do musicals, it was a safer bet to cast good actors who could sort of sing, rather than good singers who didn't know a thing about acting.

That's why I was even offered the lead role in the first local staging of the rock musical, "Jesus Christ, Superstar." After I listened to the music and realized that the role required a tenor voice (which I didn't have), I turned the plum role down. It was then offered to Boy Camara, who later became a popular singing star—but that's another story!

Problem

As for "Promises, Promises," it was supposed to star Sonny Cortez and Julie Borromeo, but two weeks before opening night, there appeared to be a problem, so it was decided to double-cast the male-lead role of Chuck Baxter.

Since I was known to be a quick study, I was asked to help out and share the role with Sonny. Not really knowing what was required of actor-singer-dancers in musicals, I brashly accepted.

Well, those two weeks went by much too quickly, let me tell you. There were many lines of dialogue to learn, solo and duet songs and dances to rehearse, fast costume changes to figure out—etc.! I may have been a quick study, but my so-so singing voice and two left feet certainly weren't brilliant assets for my "total" musical performance! Those were the fastest two weeks of my life!

To make things worse, Burt Bacharach's music is hard to learn even for outstanding singers. Its syncopation eluded me and made my singing and dancing rehearsals sheer torture. To top it all, not only did our musical director not help me work out my musical problems, but he even scoffed at my desperate efforts to get things right!

Dance steps

The choreographer didn't help much, either. I had a long solo number about basketball and she just plunked me alone onstage and left me to figure my dance steps out for myself.

On hindsight, I realized that the production wasn't very helpful because it had been having problems even before I was asked to join it, so it didn't really have time to give me a hand with *my* problems! So, things went their messy way until after all of the performances had run their course . . .

The pleasant surprise was, the production get good reviews, and I got offered more lead roles in musicals—which, thankfully, had music that wasn't as difficult music as Bacharach's songs in "Promises, Promises."

I guess, in those days, local standards for musicals weren't all that high—unlike now, when you need to have a really brilliant singing voice to be given a lead role in a musical production.

Other plus points: working in "Promises, Promises," I got to perform with some veteran character actors like Teddy Yabut, from whom I learned a lot about textured and non-*porma* acting.

Finally, I remember "Promises, Promises" with fondness because it was in that production that I first met Margie and Lulette Moran. This was years before Margie became Miss Universe.

MARGIE Moran was in the chorus of the musical, years before she became Miss Universe.

Sunny disposition

In those days, it was Lulette who was regarded as *the* beauty among the lovely Moran sisters. Margie was also lovely, but not yet outstandingly so. What I remember most were her sunny disposition, and her determination. She may have had only a chorus part in the show, but she made sure that she got things exactly right.

After she won the Miss Universe contest, I asked Margie how she had transformed herself from the pretty chorus girl I knew to a world-class beauty.

She replied that she had determinedly used the technique called "imaging": Every morning, she would face the mirror and "think" herself as a beauty queen. Well, it worked—beautifully! Like some other people involved in that musical of ours, Margie continues to fulfill her promise.

As for me, I've long stopped singing in musicals, but I direct quite a lot of them (mostly Filipino musicals)—and I make sure that the talents I cast have *much* better voices than mine!

Three cautionary stories

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WE often hear advice against washing our hands or taking a cold bath after a particularly strenuous activity. This is to avoid getting "*pasma*," a term that is difficult to translate into English. It's basically a dysfunctional condition resulting from a messed-up circulation of chi or life energy in the body due to unfavorable conditions such as dampness, cold, heat or wetness.

Health problems

As an acupuncturist once stated, "Disease or body aches and pains are not always caused by germs. Health problems can also be triggered by wetness, dampness, cold and heat."

I am sharing with you three different people's stories. From these actual experiences, I hope we can all learn some valuable lessons:

Eddie drove from Manila to Baguio and throughout the trip, he relished the experience of having cool air blowing on his face as he drove with the window of his car open. He was exhausted when he got to his destination and he immediately went to the bathroom to splash cold water on his face and neck.

When he woke up the following morning, he experienced a slight tingling in his facial muscles. He drove back to Manila and again washed up after arriving at home.

The day after, he started to lose sensation on the left side of his face. Saliva dripped from his mouth as he lost control over half of his mouth and cheeks. He went to a neurosurgeon and was advised to have brain surgery.

Seven sessions

I told him to go to an acupuncturist, instead. He followed my advice and after seven sessions, he regained full control of his facial muscles.

Dottie was a typical teenager who loved reading pocketbooks for hours. After reading, she felt it was refreshing to wash her face with cold water.

One day in school, she shouted to her classmates that she was losing her vision. She was experiencing bouts of blindness! She went to an eye doctor who advised her against washing her face after long reading sessions. In due time, her vision became normal and stable again.

Marissa was a mother of four who saw the need to keep fit with exercise. Her father always warned her about getting "*pasma*" but she never paid attention to his advice.

One day, she went jogging and was really sweating by the time she came back home. She wanted to freshen up so she took a cold shower. She was not even through taking the shower when her body was wracked with cramps from head to foot. She dropped to the floor and crumpled up in agony.

She narrates, "It was horrible. Although it took much effort, I grabbed my bathrobe and tried to put it on. I crawled out of the bathroom and started shouting for help.

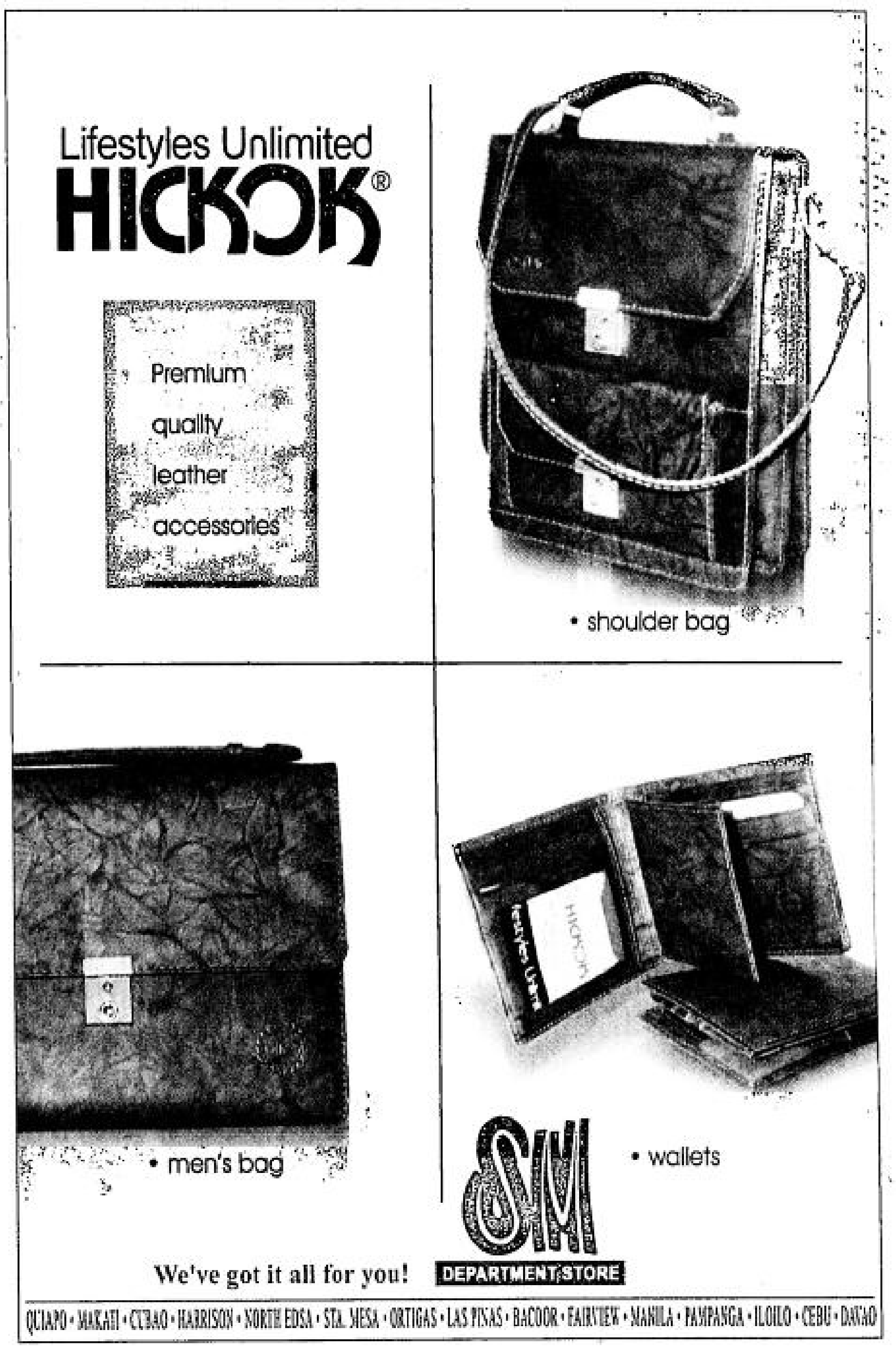
Pain

"My husband came to the rescue and he started to vigorously massage my whole body. It took several minutes for the pain to go away. From that time on, I followed my father's advice and passed on it my children."

The body is a very complex machine and it needs to be properly maintained and cared for. It functions best at suitable temperatures. Whenever the temperature drops or rises beyond the normal range, the body undertakes certain processes (sweating to cool off or burning fat to gain heat) to achieve normal conditions.

Common sense and practical experience dictate that we should never submerge a heated pan or glass in cold water, because it will crack. Similarly, the body is very fragile and needs delicate care.

Strenuous physical activity raises body heat and the body needs time to cool down and rest before we subject it to immediate temperature change. A gentle transition from one state to another would be most favorable for any machine, and that includes the body.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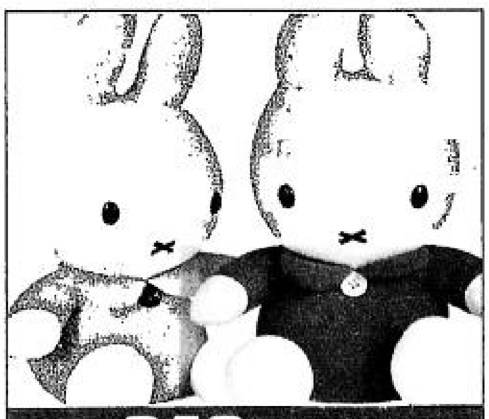

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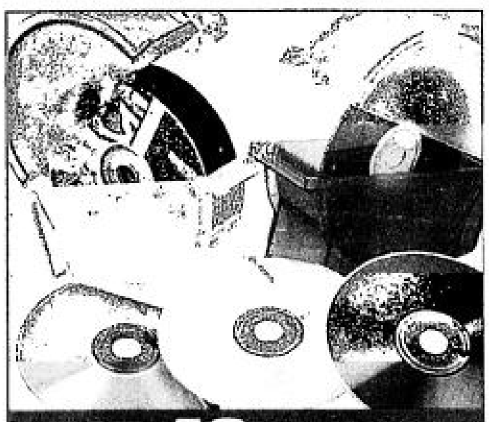

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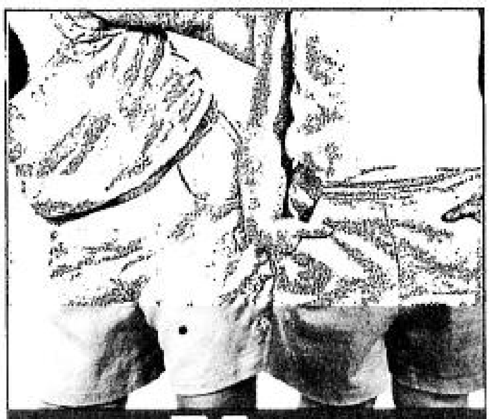

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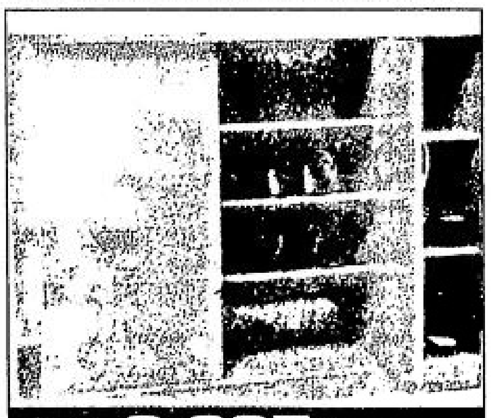

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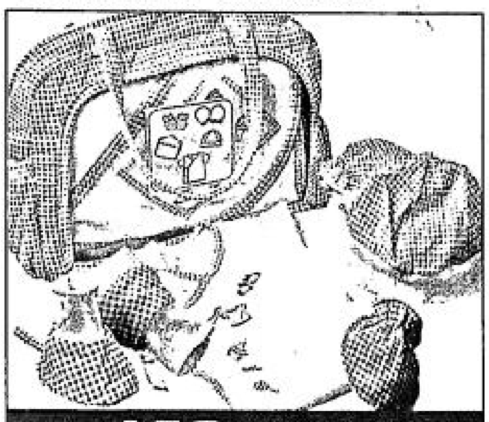

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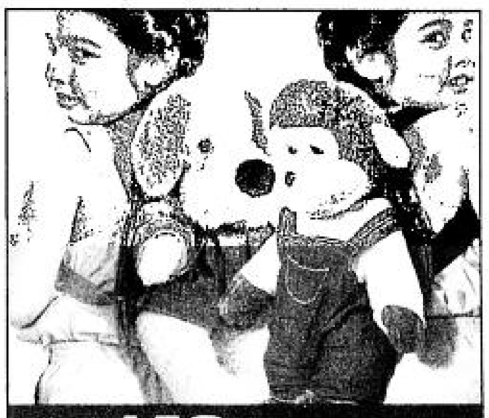

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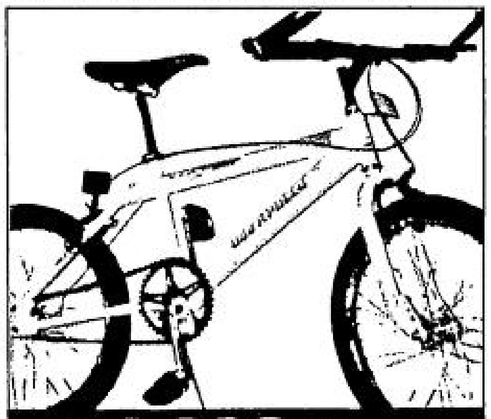

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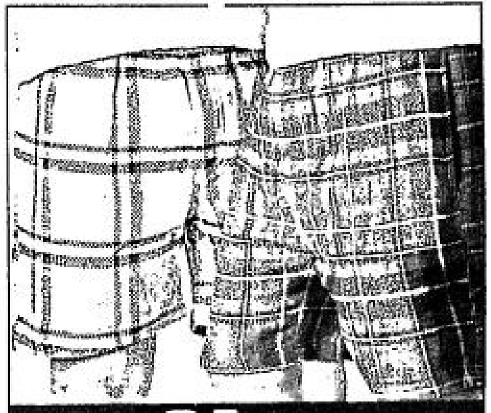

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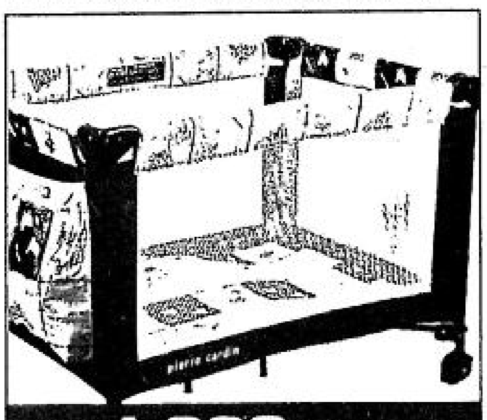

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Romantic Rome rubs off on Cruise and Cruz

By Stephanie Holmes

ROME—Hollywood star Tom Cruise wore his heart on his sleeve on Thursday as he spoke about passion, life and his new film, with his lover and co-star Penelope Cruz.

"I'm a romantic, I believe in love," Cruise told a press conference as he sat beneath the frescoed ceiling of a plush hotel in Rome.

Latest film

"I believe in the eternal nature of love, that is what I walked away with from this film," said twice-divorced Cruise, talking about his latest film, "Vanilla Sky."

Cruise and his wife of 10 years, Nicole Kidman, divorced last year, ending the fairy tale marriage of what was once Hollywood's hottest power couple. He had married Kidman just months after divorcing Mimi Rogers.

Cruise, 39, split from Kidman last February and in July started dating 27-year-old Spanish actress Cruz.

The couple refused to be drawn on the subject of marriage.

They gave only a fleeting glimpse into their relationship while in Rome to promote the $60 million remake of Spanish film "Abre los Ojos" or "Open Your Eyes" which has been a US box office success since it opened there in December.

Psychological thriller

"Vanilla Sky," a psychological thriller, plays with different levels of reality as it follows the amorous adventures of a New York publisher. Fans have breathlessly pointed out that life imitated art as the love affair between the co-stars blossomed off-screen.

"I'm sorry," Cruise said, furrowing his brow at a slightly prying question, "Could you clarify that, please?"

In their own minds there was no confusion between a fictional romance and the real thing.

"My relationship with Penelope, although it makes great headlines, is something that is very special to me, something that I am very happy about," said Cruise. "But it is very different from David and Sofia, two characters who we are playing in the film."

Cruz, dressed in a fluid white suit, cupped her face in her hands as she listened to questions, and responded cautiously.

Happy

"I have nothing more to say about that, we have nothing to hide, we are happy and I think everyone understands that. It is something that can turn against you," she said, flicking ribbons of black hair over her shoulders as Cruise looked on, smiling.

Both agreed losing a sense of reality was a professional hazard.

"It is a danger out there, especially these days and especially if you have a profession like ours you can get really confused sometimes," said Cruz.

Cruise, whose personal wealth is estimated by Fortune magazine to be around $250 million, paused before answering: "In some ways my life for the past 20 years is a dream that I wanted to happen." *Reuters*

CRUZ AND CRUISE. Losing a sense of reality was a professional hazard.

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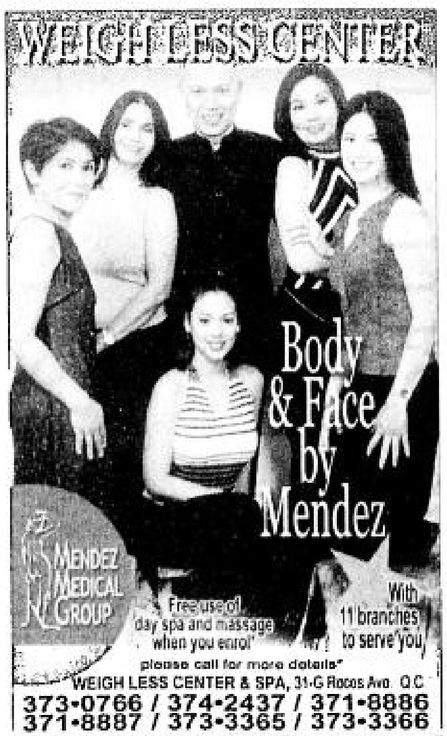

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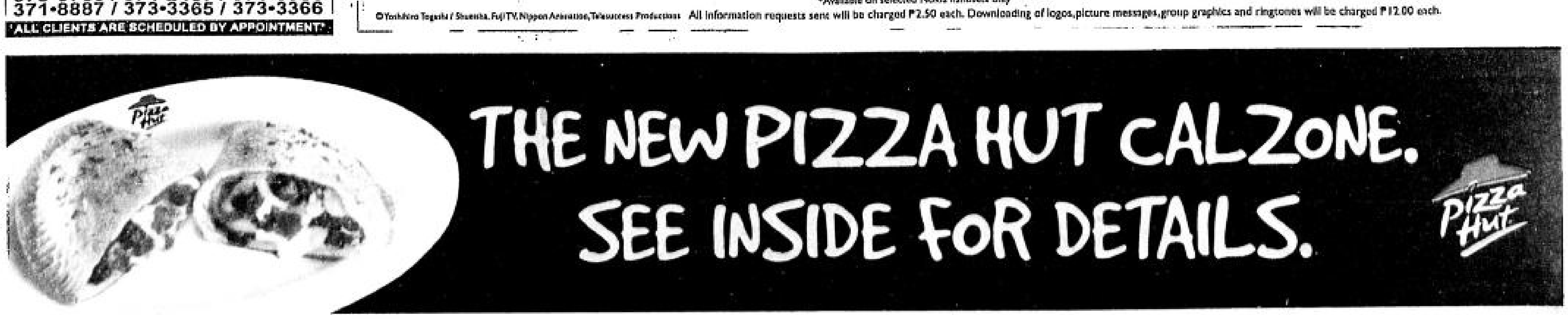

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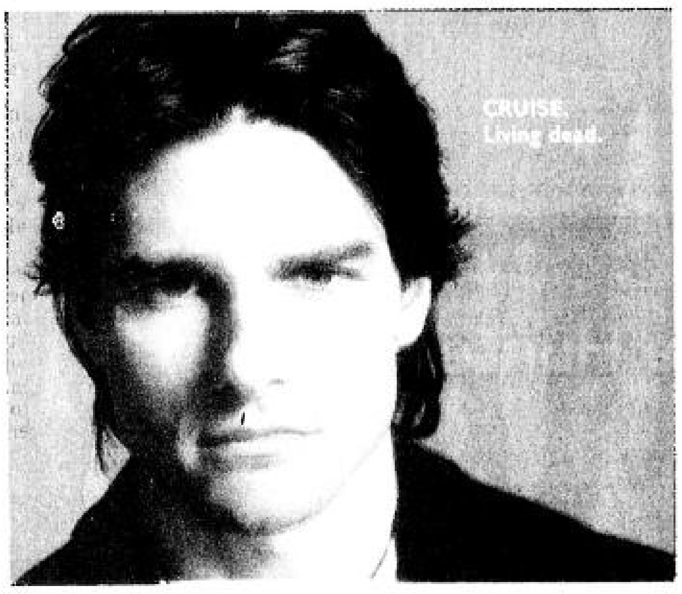
SNEAK PREVIEW

'Vanilla Sky' attempts to open viewers' inner eye



CRUISE. Living dead.

By Nestor U. Torre

"VANILLA SKY" is a compelling *and* confounding film to watch. It deserves our full attention because it dramatizes vital themes like the nature of a love that lasts "forever." But it is also occasionally confounding because it tackles too many subjects for just one film.

Perfect example

Cameron Crowe's modern "amorality play" uses its protagonist, David Aames, as the perfect example of how wealth can curdle a promising young man's potential. Worse, it renders his soul sere and unfeeling. David (Tom Cruise) thinks he's got a great life, but he's really become one of the modern world's living dead.

Worst of all, he's not only careless and neglectful, but he also breaks hearts and, impliedly, could even kill the people he loves. Clearly, he has to be taught a lesson, and the film soon does him that supremely painful service by foisting a bruised stalker on him.

She's an occasional bedmate named Julie (Cameron Diaz), who finally snaps, and crashes the car she's driving, with David trapped in the passenger's seat beside her.

Horribly disfigured

Julie may or may not have died in the car crash, but David definitely has his handsome face horribly disfigured. This is the perfect punishment for him, since his good looks vivify both the perfection *and* the shallowness of his privileged life.

Now that his looks are gone, David is able to see himself in a totally new light, with no photogenic distractions to blur his vision. Now that he's become a victim himself, he finally learns to feel for others.

As he becomes more flawed and thus more human, we in the audience understand and identify with him much better than when he was the pluperfect demigod of the modern world.

We realize that he has become so unfeeling and casually cruel because nobody taught him how to love—certainly not his famous father, who had no time for him, nor all of his girlfriends, who desired only his body and multi-millions.

Vengeful executives

That's why the film takes pains to personify David as the male version of Sleeping Beauty—all those shots of him asleep or in a stupor, surrounded by vengeful executives caustically called the Seven Dwarfs, etc.

And, later, the sleep motif takes some perverse turns, as when he smothers Sofia, the only woman who's ever loved him for himself, and the hope of an extended life finding a chilling realization in cryogenic technology.

Friendship

The movie also has some insightful things to say about friendship, with David constantly taking advantage of the vulnerable affection of his one, true friend (Jason Lee). Plus: the convergence of reality and fantasy, which are sometimes fused together so seamlessly that you can't tell one from the other.

This is all very absorbing *and* mystifying, which is why we eventually stop trying to figure the movie out and just concentrate on the performances that give the production the solid fulcrum and storm center it needs.

In this connection, Cruise, Diaz and Lee come on strong, while Penelope Cruz as Sofia gets lost in the "dreamlike" and otherwise quixotic nature of her character.

In any case, do see "Vanilla Sky" when it starts its regular run here on Feb. 6, to see if it opens *your* inner eye.

Focus on Britney Spears, Mandy Moore

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

WHAT do you want to know about your favorite celebrities? Write us: Phil. Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Show Biz Q&A, Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City.

This week's Q and A:

"I heard that Destiny's Child member Beyonce Knowles will play an important role in the next installment of Mike Myers' "Austin Powers." What about my favorite teen pop singers Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera and Mandy Moore?" ***–Kathy delos Santos, Malate, Manila.***

Yes, Beyonce will appear as Foxy Cleopatra in Mike Myers' "Austin Powers in Goldmember," due out in July this year.

The good news is, other than main cast members Heather Graham, Michael Caine and Seth Green, other features to look forward to in the movie will be cameo appearances by Kevin Spacey, Gwyneth Paltrow, Danny De Vito and, surprise, Britney Spears!

Big-screen debut

In fact, you don't have to wait that long. Britney will make her big-screen debut in "Crossroads" this month, with Dan Aykroyd, directed by Tamra Davis ("Billy Madison" and "Skipped Parts," shown in Manila last December as "Dream Girl" with Jennifer Jason Leigh, Brad Renfro and Drew Barrymore).

She did make a cameo (as a flight attendant!) earlier in "Longshot," a crime thriller starring Hunter Tylo and Antonio Sabato Jr., with the guys from 'N Sync (boyfriend Justin Timberlake as a country club car valet, Lance Bass as a flight engineer, Joey Fatone as a pizzeria cook, Chris Kirkpatrick as a pizzeria patron and JC Chasez as a pizzeria worker). Unfortunately, the movie has only been released in Germany.

On the other hand, Christina Aguilera may have appeared in "Beverly Hills 90210" as herself, in an episode called "Let's Eat Cake," but is yet to appear on the big screen.

Although not as high-profile as Britney and Christina, Mandy Moore has edged out the older but more popular girls, as far as big-screen appearances are concerned. She was seen in last year's "Bubble Boy," Disney's "The Princess Diaries" (as the *contravida*), and was heard as the voice of a girl bear cub in Eddie Murphy's "Dr. Dolittle. 2."

Romantic drama

As if that were not enough, her movie, the romantic drama, "A Walk to Remember," opened big last week in the US. Made for a measly $9M, the film debuted in third spot, after "Black Hawk Down" and "Snow Dogs," with a $13.5M box-office take!

Set in the 1950s, it tells the story of a rich boy (played by Shane West) who meets a not-so-rich girl from a small town, and sparks fly. The blurb: "She didn't belong. She was misunderstood. She would change him forever." Very Pinoy, huh?

SPEARS. Cameo role in new "Austin Powers" movie.

"I was saddened by the recent passing of George Harrison. I'm in my '20s but I love the music of The Beatles. Please feature them in Show Biz Q and A." ***–Janne Lacson, Mandaluyong City.***

The Beatles may have disbanded in 1970, but this did not stop them—not John Lennon's assassination in New York in 1980, nor George Harrison's death from brain cancer in November last year—from topping charts or breaking records, some of these their own.

Considered the greatest and most influential act of the rock era, they were simultaneously the best and the most popular at what they did, and introduced more innovations into popular music than any other band in the 20th century.

Lead guitarist

Composed of rhythm guitarist John Lennon, bass guitarist Paul McCartney, lead guitarist George Harrison and drummer Ringo Starr, they were the first British rock group to achieve worldwide prominence.

Even if deaths and group infighting prevented a reunion, it was their eclectic musical craft and melodic inventiveness that kept them in the consciousness of music afficionados.

Their most recent album, released in 2000, a hits compilation titled "1," has broken a world record by topping the charts in 34 countries, breaking U2's "Pop" record of 32. By December 21 last year, a few weeks after Harrison succumbed, the album was selling six copies per second around the world!

When Billboard compiled its year-end album recap for 2001, it was shocked to find out that "1" was the No. 1 album of the year, made even more shocking by the fact that this was the first time in U.S. chart history that The Beatles had the No. 1 album of the year! "1" spent eight weeks at No. 1.

Prior to this, The Beatles' highest year-end ranking was at No. 2 with "Beatles '65." "Rubber Soul" (1966), "The Magical Mystery Tour" (1966) and "Abbey Road," their last album (1970), were No. 4. "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" was 6th and 10th (1968 and 1967, respectively). "Meet the Beatles," their first US album (1964), "Revolver" (1967), "The White Album" (1969) and "Anthology I" (1996) were No. 8, etc.

Contemporay acts

Their topping the year-end list was made even more amazing by the fact that they beat contemporary acts, like the Backstreet Boys, 'N Sync, Shaggy and Destiny's Child, with songs that were written 30 years ago!

Similarly, when Rolling Stone and MTV compiled their list of "The Greatest Pop Songs since 1963" (based on songs that had the most influence on pop culture) in October last year, "Yesterday," written by Paul McCartney, topped the list, beating the likes of (in order of number of votes) Rolling Stones' "I Can't Get No Satisfaction;" Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit;" Madonna's "Like A Virgin" and Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean."

The Beatles' "I Want to Hold Your Hand" was No. 6 and The Backstreet Boys' "I Want It That Way" came at No. 10.

Ara Mina tries her hand at other businesses

By Jocelyn Valle

AS Ara Mina proudly shows a handful of entertainment writers around her almost finished restaurant, Osteria Italia, along Tomas Morato ave., we remember an incident at the NU Rock Awards a couple of years ago. The sexy star was about to announce the name of that year's best guitarist, and the members of the audience snickered at her "funny" enunciation and because they felt that Ara simply didn't belong to their set.

Fine dining restaurant

Osteria Italia is a fine-dining restaurant serving authentic Italian dishes (her formerly Cebu-based chef is an Italian national married to a Filipina), plus a limited selection of wines.

Ara has the largest stake in the company that owns and runs Osteria Italia. She is its president and is also the one responsible for the total look and character of the dining place.

Ara gestures to the corner where a baby grand piano will be placed. "We'll have intimate shows here once a week," she informs us, adding that she will be among the restaurant's future performers.

Eyebrows will surely soar as Osteria Italia formally opens in time for Valentine's Day. For some reasons (mainly envy?), some people, specifically the ones who swear they wouldn't be caught dead listening to any of Ara's songs or watching one of her movies, don't want to see her succeed in any field other than the bold-movie genre.

Tough cookie

But Ara is one tough cookie. She doesn't seem to mind her detractors and isn't bothered by rumors. "*Kung meron nga akong* D.O.M.," she quips, "*sana hindi lang restaurant ang naipatayo ko. Ang gusto ko kasi talaga,* hotel." She similarly laughs off talks linking her to other married men in show biz.

ARA MINA. Lessons learned.

Ara tells us that she's always been a determined person. "I've realized *na* once *na pinaghirapan mo ang isang bagay, makukuha mo ito nang maayos.*"

She shares the other lessons she's learned: "*Kailangan* patient *ka, marunong kang makipag-usap sa tao at saka dapat* good payer *ka!*" She's found out, too, that being a celebrity is an advantage.

Pasta

Ara shares that she loves to eat pasta, that's why she's chosen an Italian restaurant for her business venture.

She then leads us to the back of the building to check out Cosmopolitan Café, where she's part owner.

"*Natuto ako sa* experience *ng* mommy *ko. Wala siyang na*-invest *sa kinita niya sa* show biz," she reveals, to explain why she's bent on securing her financial future. She hastens to add, however, that she's not abandoning her main occupation, performing.

At 22, Ara Mina doesn't only know what she wants, she knows how to get it.

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Martin Nievera holds first solo concert at the Araneta Coliseum

By Edmund L. Sicam

MARTIN Nievera entered Don Henrico's restaurant on Tomas Morato looking very trim and fit. Everyone gushed at how good he looked, as he modestly told us that his waist line was a mere 32-33 inches. "My trainer is Jackielou (Blanco)," he kidded. (Jackielou won all kinds of prizes at a recent Slimmers World competition.)

Everyone wanted to know how he was able to trim down. "My work is really my exercise now. I work out when I can, as often as I can. I don't eat at night," he answered. "And, lots of sex." And for his diet? "No rice, no starch at night, no meat, vegetables . . . and lots of sex." Laughter.

Rigorus schedule

Martin has had to get in shape because of the rigorous schedule of concerts he is doing for the Crossover radio network. "Martin XV-4 Ever" has already had its run in Cebu and Bacolod, where it did very well. Today, Martin will be at the Araneta Coliseum, right on time to celebrate his 40th birthday.

But he emphasizes that this is not a birthday concert. "I really don't want to celebrate my 40th year!" Martin discloses. "But it's gonna be a big night for me because we're trying out some new stuff." On the 9th, Martin brings the show to Pampanga.

Martin shares that staging a show of this magnitude has put him in a predicament. Because of the number of shows he has done in the recent past, he wants to come up with new stuff to keep his audiences entertained.

"What else can I do?" he asks of his audience. "Everytime I try and do something new, everybody wants to hear the old stuff. So we're going to try and give you the old stuff in a new way, in a different form."

Guests

Keeping us all in suspense, Martin refuses to divulge who his guests may or may not be. He says negotiations are still underway and he would not want to announce that so-and-so will be guesting on his show, only to find out later that the guesting will not materialize. "Besides, I really want to know if you came to watch me," Martin quips.

NIEVERA. "I want to sing until I bleed."

Martin admits that he likes to spend as much time as he can on stage. He enjoys performing so much that he doesn't mind it at all if he has no guests to share the stage with.

"I'm very *swapang* when it comes to time on stage," he shares. "It's not so much who's the star, it's just that I really enjoy what I do! I can't believe that, at this point in my life, after the 19 years I've been in show biz, I don't want to share the stage with anybody! I want to sing until I bleed!"

In between his concerts, he has been traveling back and forth to America working on several projects—recordings for two movie soundtracks (one for "Austin Powers 3," the other for a Rob Schneider movie) and a possible front act for the concert tour of Latin American singer, Marc Anthony. "I really bang my head against the wall. I'm doing a major show almost every other week." But he says he can't complain.

Blessings

He can only be thankful for the blessings that he has received. "See that's just it. I'm not tired. I love it! You have to tell me to shut up. My musicians are already crying, *'Tama na!'* They're already complaining about how long my shows are. But I'm the one enjoying it." Martin confesses. He feels that his mission in life is to make people happy. "You can't get tired of that. It's not yet a job, that's why."

One discovery made that afternoon was that this is the first time that Martin will be performing solo at the Araneta. The last time he performed there was at a back-to-back concert with Zsa Zsa Padilla. "So that's why I want to give you all of me, as much of me as you can tolerate," Martin jokes.

The concert king feels that this concert may be his last for a long, long time. He feels positive about the negotiations for his stints abroad and is preparing to be away for quite some time. "If these things materialize, I'm willing to take that risk," he muses.

Pressure

Because he has reached an all-time high in his career, the concert king is starting to feel the pressure of his title. He is worried that people will tire of him and thus keeps asking himself, "What else can I do to keep letting you come back to a venue of this size?" In other words, how does he stay at the heights that he has reached in his career?

In a dream he shared with us, he filled Araneta to the rafters, which of course, he is hoping for. "But will it be that way next year? The next five years?" he asks himself. In his dream, he asked his audience, "Will you always be there?" He has come to a realization. "The hardest thing I've realized, it's really not that easy to be me. But it's OK to be me. Whether the venue is full or not, it's OK. It's OK that someone they call 'king' can fail every so often."

What's next?

So what's next for the guy who is riding high on the tidal wave of his singing career? "I was popular because I was married. Now I'm popular because I'm *not* married. It's really confusing! I don't know what's next for me!"

GLORIA Romero and other Sampaguita stars were popular models in high-society fashion shows.

Life and entertainment in the happy 1950s

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

MANILA'S crème de la crème was living life to hilt in the '50s. High fashion was the vogue, and society matrons paid scandalous amounts for the gowns they wore at the exclusive Kahirup Ball of the sugar-rich *hacienderos* from Iloilo and Negros.

Rigodon

The Pampangueños had their ball, too. So did the Club Davaeño from then timber-rich Mindanao. Invariably, they showed off their expensive *ternos* and gowns in the ubiquitous *rigodon*.

Heels were high. Hair-do's, formerly the pompadour and now called the beehive, were piled high for added height. More extravagant designs became fashionable. After the austerity of the war, it was time to splurge!

Jam sessions and barn dances with the customary spaghetti and cheese-pimiento sandwiches were simultaneously held during socially busy weekends.

Joyous

While the dances—boogie, twist, rock and roll, *mambo, cha-cha*—were generally as energetic and joyous as was the general temper of the period, romantic pairs danced to the saccharine music of Joni James, the angst-sy ballads of Frank Sinatra, the smokey loves songs of Nat King Cole, or the sweet ditties of Doris Day. They danced the slow drag, but it was expected that the lovey-dovey pairs would practice restraint.

Just as Hollywood celebrated its great, young beauties like Elizabeth Taylor and Ann Blyth, or goddesses like Ava Gardner, Manila placed on pedestals its homegrown samples of pulchritude, be they *mestizas, morenas* or *chinitas*.

High society was still citing the likes of Susan Magalona, Nelly Lovina, Aurora Recto, Chona Kasten, Lily de las Alas Padilla and Elvira Manahan as world-class beauties. These ladies with the best pedigrees were the Best Dressed Women of the land, along with the Madrigal sisters with their European gowns and priceless jewelry.

Fashion shows

Adventurous high society soon discovered fashion shows that allowed them to participate in charity events, look grand, mix with their own kind and find their pictures plastered on the society pages of major periodicals soon after.

These exciting fashion events were held at the Manila Hotel's Winter Garden, where the grand don of haute couture, Ramon Valera, and upcoming designers, Slims, Moreno, Farrales and Espiritu gowned not only the grand dames of high society, but its pretty young debutantes, too.

The fashion designers soon recruited pert sub-debutantes to model along with sophisticated Carlyn Manning, Chona, Elvira, Chito and Mary Prieto. This cute group provided the youth component to the fashion shows. Their mothers were thrilled and soon, names like Conchitina and Josie were familiar society-page items.

Social acceptance

Even Sampaguita Pictures' Dr. Jose Perez wanted his actresses to have social acceptance. And, why not—weren't his contract actresses beautiful beyond description? Didn't they have real or acquired names like Romero, Perez, Roces and Fuentes?

Soon, Gloria, Barbara, Susan and Amalia were popular models in high-society fashion shows, along with legendary Paraluman, a statuesque *mestiza* of German descent, Siegried Von Giese in real life.

What a scene it was! With its legendary beauties, Manila was the beauty capital of Asia. Why, by then the Philippines already had the first Miss Universe, even if Ms Armi Kuusela of Finland became a citizen only by virtue of her marriage to Jaguar-driving Gil Hilario. Better days were sure to come!

Popular TV soap is showcase for young talents

By Remy M. Umerez

THE GMA-7 telenovela "Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga" has become a showcase for young talents. Two of these hopefuls are Miles Poblete and Jet Alcantara.

Top prizewinner

A native of Tabaco, Albay, 19-year-old Mila Rose or Miles first gained public exposure through singing. In 1999, she joined the Metropop contest conducted by GMA, where she emerged as the top winner.

Miles is assigned an *"antipatika"* role which is drawing mixed reactions. As Teresing, she is determined to make life uncomfortable for her ex-boyfriend Guiller (Biboy Ramirez).

Her friends were surprised that Miles accepted the role. But she points out that others have depicted bitchy characters on TV without being typecast as villains.

New opportunities

Meanwhile, new opportunities opened up for Jet Alcantara after he won as first runner-up in the Mr. World competition in 1998.

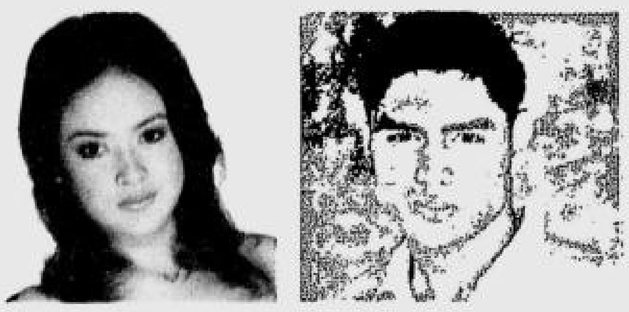
With his towering height of 6'2," he soon became a ramp model.

Born to an Indian father and a Filipina mother, Jet likes writing poems and painting.

In "Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga" he plays Simon, Angelu's officemate who eventually becomes her lover.

Playing an intimate scene with Angelu that was seen by many televiewers is an experience Jet will always treasure.

Jet always looks forward to the show's regular taping day, because on the program, neophytes like him are given a chance to shine.



POBLETE AND ALCANTARA. Have been given their chance to shine.

Celebrities join forces for 'Kababaihan' concert

ON Feb. 23, the concert stage of Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (Folk Arts Theater) will rock with over 70 Filipino women artists joining together to declare the Philippines a rape-free zone.

Concert

The concert—"Kababaihan... A Gala Benefit Performance of the Vagina Monologues" is produced by the New Voice Company, and will have "Vagina Monologues" playwright Eve Ensler as special guest. A New York film crew will shoot a special film on Vday here.

For the first time in the Philippines, stars will come together in one rousing evening to help end violence towards women and raise funds for groups who provide help and services to Filipino women in the areas of rape, battery, incest and sexual slavery.

Onstage, Filipina artists from film, TV, theatre, dance, media, literature, politics, art and the recording and concert stage will do "The Vagina Monologues," sing, dance, speak up and let their voices be heard.

Fabulous women

The list of fabulous women includes: Marilou Diaz Abaya, Cynthia Alexander, Zeneida Amador, Pinky Amador, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, Dulce Aristorenas, Glecy Atienza, Angel Aquino, Baby Barredo, Maita Beltran, Arlene Borja, Christine Carlos, Connie Chua, Tingting Cojuangco, Rina Jimenez David, Christine Escudero, Lara Fabregas, Gilda Cordero-Fernando, Malou De Guzman, Alya Honasan, Angel Jacob, Jenny Jamora, CheChe Lazaro, Celeste Legaspi, Angelu De Leon, Missy Maramara, Lisa Masa, Sarah Meier, Tami Monsod, Roselle Nava, Leah Navarro, Olga Natividad, Madeleine Nicolas, Grace Nono, Daphne Osena, Bibeth Orteza, Belinada Panelo, Sonia Roco, Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta, Lynn Sherman, Mitch Valdes, Monique Wilson and Jasmin Zueger. Call 896-6695.

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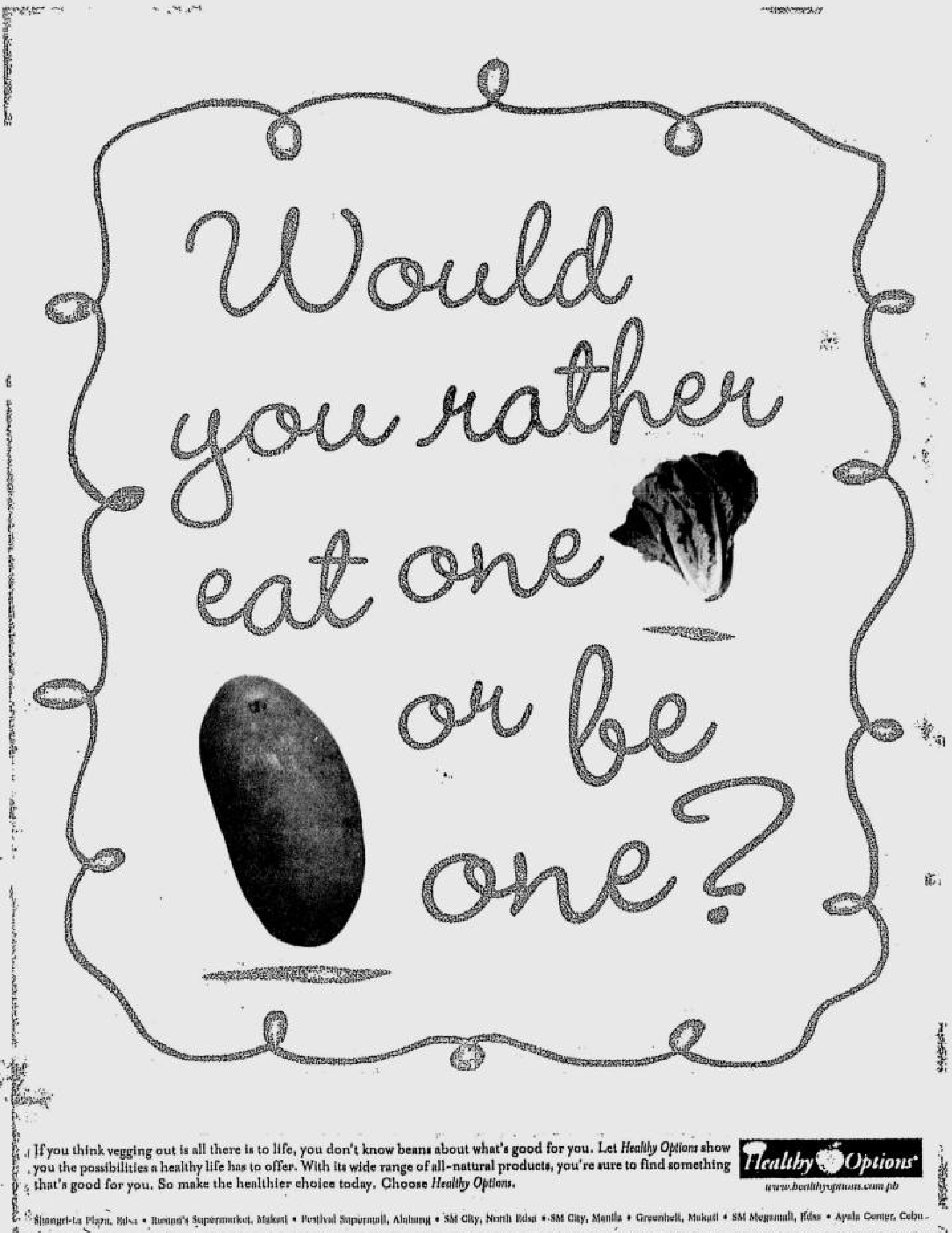
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Triumph of the Filipino and Asian artist

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

RYAN Cayabyab was recently honored as one of the top winners in the global arts tilt, the First Onassis International Competition for original music competition for dance and for original choreography, in glittering awards rites held in Athens, Greece. Today, we are happy to share with you an official photo of the awarding ceremonies sent by the Onassis Foundation.

As you can see, the other awardees make up a truly international cast of leading achievers in the world of art. Ryan was the only Asian awardee, so his victory was a triumph not just of the Filipino but of the Asian artist as well.

The Onassis Prizes are much-coveted by top artists because they are awarded only once every four years, and they have a monetary component that is one of the biggest ever given (in dollars, yet). And, of course, there's the enormous prestige that comes with winning over many excellent entries sent by artists all over the world.

We hope that Ryan's triumph on the world stage will inspire other Filipino artists to similarly strive towards the highest levels of achievement.

Even better, the award should make us Filipinos value our artists more, and motivate us to patronize their works over foreign productions. As we all know, the opposite is often the case in these "colonial mentality"-prone parts.

'The Return of the Native'

Catherine Zeta-Jones stars in a new film adaptation of Thomas Hardy's 19th-century literary masterpiece, "The Return of the Native," to be shown at 9 p.m. on Feb. 3 on the Hallmark Channel.

Hallmark's special Hall of Fame feature casts Zeta-Jones as Eustacia Vye, a young woman who struggles against the restrictions of country life, and is looked upon with suspicion by the people around her.

One day, Eustacia encounters "the native," Clym Yeobright (Ray Stevenson), who has come back home after five years spent making his fortune in Paris. Eustacia sees in Clym her chance to escape from the country, while he is simply captivated by her beauty.

Complication: Eustacia's past lover, Damon Wildeve, is engaged to be married to Clym's cousin, but he is still in love with Eustacia. Eventually, their ties are severed, but Damon's love for Eustacia is unrelenting.

Despite this, Eustacia marries Clym. However, their happiness turns out to be short-lived. A tragic event alters their lives and sets in motion a chain of developments that propels the story to its dramatic conclusion.

The Hallmark Channel is seen locally on Home Cable Channel 25, Sky Cable Channel 38, Destiny Cable Channel 25 and PCC and Cable Boss affiliates.

Feedback

From Fr. Joel Lasutaz of Sta. Cruz, Manila: "Congratulations for the very interesting and entertaining articles you feature in your section. The articles are well-written and adhere to a very high standard of journalism…"

MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council search

Feb. 8 is the deadline for the submission of entries to the search for members of the MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council. The search is for five girls and five guys, aged 14 to 20, who possess a positive attitude, exuberance for life, leadership qualities, creativity, dynamism, a great personality, and a concern for others.

Twenty finalists will be chosen during a selection party on Feb. 15, and the 10 winners will be announced on Feb. 28. They will be MTV and Penshoppe's official ambassadors to schools, will be involved in youth-oriented and charitable activities, and will be given a chance to be VIP hosts at MTV events. For details, call MTV at 848-1321 or e-mail nepomuceno@mtv.asia.com.

Rannie Raymundo at Arkadia

Rannie Raymundo performs at Arkadia (Remedios st., Malate) at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 6. Rannie's "bari-tenor" voice fits into many musical grooves—soul, R and B, folk, jazz, classical and pop. Call 404-1087.

Rannie's latest CD, "Oras," features 14 songs described as "soothing to the ear and full of street wisdom." It is produced by Viva Records.

CAYABYAB (fourth from left), the lone Asian awardee, receives his Onassis prize at glittering ceremonies in Athens.

Holding pattern

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

A FRIEND recently sent me a computer printout of a short essay he downloaded from the internet. It struck me like a thunderbolt. The first time I read it was last Christmas yet but, to this day, its powerful message still reverberates in my mind. I'd like to share it with you, with the confidence that it will have the same effect on you as it has on me:

Difficult season

Many times, God allows painful situations to happen in our life. They overwhelm us. They consume us. They swallow us up. But we should be able to recognize this difficult season in our spiritual growth as a holding pattern.

It's the time when we can't move to the left or the right. All we can do is sit back—just like Jonah sat in the belly of that great fish—so that God can have our undivided attention and speak to us.

God put Jonah on a holding pattern because He needed to speak to his heart. Jonah was alone there. There were no friends to call on him, no colleagues to drop by, no books for him to read, no food to eat—no interference, no interruptions. He had plenty of time to sit, think, meditate and pray.

When we're deep down in the midst of a very difficult situation, God can talk to us. When He has our undivided attention, He can show us things about ourselves that we might otherwise be unable to see.

A few holding patterns:

1. When you are sick in your physical body and you have prayed but God has not healed you yet.

2. When you are having problems with your children and you have put them on the altar but God has not delivered them yet.

3. When you have been praying for the salvation of a loved one but he has not been saved yet.

Broken relationship

4. When you are in a broken relationship and you have given it over to God but it has not been restored yet.

5. When the doors slam shut even before you can knock on them.

6. When you are deep in the belly of a very difficult situation.

In these situations, God has our undivided attention. All we can do is sit, think, meditate and pray. We cannot run from God because there are no mountains high enough, no valleys low enough, rooms dark enough or places hidden enough from Him. We must remember to praise and thank Him while we're waiting—and remember three things:

1. The pattern has a purpose.
2. The pattern has a plan.
3. The pattern has a process.

So, stop struggling and start listening, praying and trusting. He'll keep you right where you are until you can clearly hear Him say, "I Love You."

Prayer: Father, forgive my unbelief. I know You love me and will turn anything around to benefit me. You have planned nothing for me but victories and I am ready to receive them regardless of how difficult the path. Amen.

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels before the Lord can stand up to anything.

Reflections

As I said, I first read this essay last Yuletide season. I got the feeling that it was God Himself who had inspired my friend to send it to me. You see, every year, during the week between Christmas and the New Year, I find time to reflect on my life. This essay made my reflections more meaningful and insightful.

First, In God's infinite wisdom, He uses even the deepest sorrow to speak to us. It is not that our tears delight Him but that they wash away the grime from our eyes so we can see what His beautiful plans for us in our lives.

Usually, we believe so much in our own intelligence and capabilities that we put our trust only on our own strengths. Because of this, we do not even notice that the paths we have taken bring us farther away from the Lord.

He calls us back, He puts big warnings and signs in front of us, but we are oblivious to them because we are so focused on having a good time.

Then come the afflictions that we sorely need to be reminded of what our true nature is—as children of God. As such, we need to get back to Him, to know again what His plan is for us, and to live out that plan in our lives. This we need to do not for God but for ourselves—because it is what's best for us.

We're the child of a very rich father. He regularly deposits in our ATM account a fat allowance for the purpose of inspiring us to study hard. But we forget Him and ignore the reason why He gave us the money as we squander it away.

It is only when He stops depositing money into our account that we remember Him and go back to Him. Then and only then can He have the opportunity to tell us that we need to study hard or He won't restore our allowance.

Of course, our father's desire that we study hard is not for Him but for us. Our education prepares us, it does nothing to enrich our father—except to bring glory and honor to Him. But then, truth is, He is already glorious and honorable.

Sometimes, our reaction even before we can talk to our father is to fret like the spoiled brat that we are. We throw a mean tantrum, scream and shout in violent protest, go to our room and brood and cry. The morning after, we contritely go back to our father. But for a lot of us, the night before the break of dawn can be a very long one, fitful and sleepless.

There's this exquisite Tagalog saying: *"Ang tao'y natututo lamang tumingala pag ang likod ay nakasayad na sa lupa."* The simple truth of the matter is, we are nothing apart from God.

But a lot of times, we delude ourselves into believing that we are Somebody because of our wealth, fame, power, and everything else by which our world measures success and happiness.

Sad

God, in His heaven, looks upon us and shakes His divine head. He is sad because we are no longer focused on Him and we are no longer living out the purpose for which He has created us. So, what He does is take away what we have. It is when we have nothing that we realize we have God.

The biggest realization, of course, is that, when we have God, we have everything! But we can never get ourselves to realize that if we wallow in our loss and drown in our misery.

There once was this son of a baker who put up his own bakery to make his own bread. He became so prosperous and fat and he forgot all about his father. Then, his bakery got razed to the ground, and he became destitute and hungry.

Because of his pride, it took a while for him to go back to his father, but he eventually did. He went to his father's bakery and ate his father's bread. He then realized that it tasted so much better than the bread he baked.

Then, his father told him. "Son, this bakery was all yours from the very start, all you needed to do was claim it—you didn't need to build your own bakery!"

By the way, the father's bakery was fireproof.

Side A goes back-to-back with Freestyle on Feb. 8 and 9

By Edmund L. Sicam

TWO of the more popular bands in the country, Side A and Freestyle, get together in a rare pre-Valentine treat presented by Maxi-Media International on Feb. 8 and 9 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The concert is part of their nationwide tour which hits the Cebu City Sports Center on Feb. 16 and the Freedom Ring Amphitheater in Clark, Pampanga on Feb. 23.

We spoke to the members of Side A recently and kidded them that, in the press handout, Freestyle was described as a group of "young, vibrant and free-spirited musicmakers" while the term "youthful and energetic" was used to describe Side A's music, not the group itself. Joey Generoso, Naldy Gonzales, Kelly Baldon, Joey Benin and Ernie Severino were game enough to joke back that yes, they were always referred to as "veterans," but they had gotten used to the ribbing.

Enviable record

They can afford to, considering that Side A has been on the scene for 17 years, an enviable record that includes lots of sold-out concerts in big and small venues, as well as hit albums. Recently, the group moved over to a new label, PolyEast/MCA Universal, and hopes to release its latest work in March this year.

In the meantime, the group has been preparing for its back-to-back gig with Freestyle. Incidentally, the two groups are now managed by the same person, Wyngard Tracy. How did the group feel about the recent signing up of Freestyle?

Naldy said the group welcomed the idea. Trying to inject some intrigue, reporters asked if they were consulted about the entry of the new group. Everyone said no, although the idea had been floated for sometime. The band had no problems with that. Someone pointed out that the two groups appealed to two kinds of audiences, so there would be no conflict.

Trying to reveal some crack in the group's closeness, someone asked how they felt about Joey Generoso's solo career (Joey has been doing several solo concerts without the other members of the group). There was also no problem about that. If there were, the group would have disintegrated by now.

Each member of the group is allowed to pursue individual projects if they come up. Naldy, for instance, does musical arrangements for other artists.

Despite its position in the music business, Side A has not restricted its performances to the bigger venues. They continue to accept gigs in smaller outlets, much to the delight of their fans.

Joey says performing at small venues enables them to keep up with what the public wants. In an intimate setting, the group manages to get a feel of what moves today's audiences.

It also enables them to sharpen their musical talents so that, when they do the bigger venues, they can come up with a polished performance.

SIDE A. Also accept gigs in smaller outlets, to their fans' delight.

Economic difficulties

Kelly agreed with us that, despite the country's economic difficulties, the music scene is still alive and well. However, he observes that in music lounges, the prices of food are now on display so that customers can check if the place is affordable.

There is also a tendency now to recycle their wardrobe for concerts. However, there is one area on which the group has not scrimped, and that's the quality of their performance.

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The Best Things in Life Are LiBRe

Judy Ann Santos values both success and failure

By Edmund L. Sicam

SANTOS. New attitude.

LAST Wednesday, the two princesses of show business, Judy Ann Santos and Jolina Magdangal, faced off in what many considered as a crucial test of which star had more clout at the box office. Early reports indicate that Jolina is winning the showdown but there's still this weekend to consider, so nothing is final.

Nervous

Last Monday, Juday admitted during the presscon for her movie "May Pag-ibig Pa Kaya" that she was quite nervous about the whole thing. "Actually, *nakakakaba. Kasi siyempre, iyung* comparison, *nandoon na iyon. Unang-una, pareho kaming* young stars, *pangalawa iyung pelikula namin, parehong tungkol sa* love; *pangatlo, kami iyung matagal nang pinagkukumpetisyon.*"

But this is nothing new, she says. "Expected *ko na po na may intriga. Kung ano'ng maging resulta (ng pelikula), kung ano yung* possibilities *na puedeng ibato sa akin.* Like, '*Hindi ka na sikat!*'" she says laughing.

Judy Ann says she expects this each time she comes out with a film. But she knew that this one would create even more intrigue because she and Jolina have been compared to each other for quite some time now.

The teen idol declares, "I love what I'm doing right now—my business, my boutique, my bar, I'm putting up a foundation for less fortunate kids."

Confidence

She is also more confident about herself these days. And she is thrilled over how great she looks after losing a lot of weight last year. "*Ang sarap magbihis!*" she exclaims. "*Lalo na yung manalo kang* Star of the Night, *parang, 'Ay! Ang ganda-ganda ko na!*'" she squeals excitedly.

In the past, Judy Ann was often chided for her appearance, which when magnified on the silver screen, gave her a hefty look. Now, the actress laughs off the remarks as a thing of the past.

Meditation

Everyone knows that Judy Ann is into boxing, part of her fitness routine. Now, she has also gotten involved in Pilates and yoga, which includes transcendental meditation. She admits that at first, she found people who were into meditation as weird. But once she got into it, she has become an avid practitioner.

"*Mula kasi noong nag*-meditate *ako, minsan nakakapag*-concentrate *ako sa mga bagay na gusto kong gawin. Totoo na kapag nag*-yoga or *nag*-meditate *ka, malalaman mo kung ano iyung mga* priorities *na gusto mong gawin.*"

Judy Ann has nothing but raves for her new attitude. "Honestly speaking, it really feels good." She says she has learned to take short breaks (about two minutes) wherein she spends time alone. She says this has done wonders for her state of mind.

It must be difficult to deal with failures when one has reached the stardom that Judy Ann has reached right now. However, the actress tries very hard to remain grounded. "I welcome failure," she articulates, "*kasi doon ako natututo. Iniisip ko na lang na may mas magandang kapalit ito. Iniisip ko na lang na* things really happen for a reason."

Judy Ann believes that failures are part of what she calls the School of Life. "*Ang isang malaking* subject is Failure. *Kapag hindi mo tin-ake* up *iyung* course on Failure, *hindi makukumpleto ang* experience *mo. Makukulangan ka ng* knowledge on how to face your life, how to face *yung mga problems na darating pa sa iyo.*"

Aguilera threatens legal action over Internet porn

AGUILERA. Doctored images.

LOS ANGELES—Pop diva Christina Aguilera recently threatened to take legal action against the distributors of an online porn video purported to include sexually explicit images of the singer.

Official statement

"It has recently come to our attention that certain pornographic websites are posting sexually explicit photographs and video footage on the Internet fraudulently representing that it is Christina," Aguilera's website said in a notice dubbed its "official statement on Adult Tape Rumor."

"Christina's legal representatives have contacted the website hosts, and Christina plans to vigorously pursue all necessary action against the individuals responsible, including if necessary, initiating criminal proceedings," her website (http://www.Christina-A.com) said.

Adult sites

The video has reported to have been making the rounds on the Web via e-mail and on several adult sites, showing the back of a woman who is purportedly Aguilera.

Several celebrities including actress Alyssa Milano of the TV series "Charmed" have gone to court to halt the appearance of what turned out to be doctored images and staged videos featuring look-alikes. ***Reuters***

Lew Hunter's book is 'last word on screenwriting'

By Noelani Torre

LEW Hunter's "Screenwriting 434" is "the final word on screenwriting" according to "Lethal Weapon" director Richard Donner. "If you want to learn about screenwriting, this book is for you," adds Aaron Spelling. And "Casablanca" screenwriter Julius Epstein advises aspiring screenwriters, "If it is not possible for you to enroll in Professor Hunter's class at UCLA, then immerse yourself in his book. It can be the quickest, surest path to a screenwriting career." If all that praise is not yet enough to convince one that this is the book on screenwriting, then read on:

Class

"Screenwriting 434" was a class before it became a book. It is the class on screenwriting, as a matter of fact, that since the early '80s has been "recognized as the premier screenwriting course." It has produced many of Hollywood's "most frequently produced (and well-paid) writers." And at its helm is Lew Hunter, "the premiere screenwriting teacher," who has been teaching the 434 graduate screenwriting classes at UCLA since 1979.

Hunter's career in the entertainment industry spans several decades, beginning in the early 1950s when he was a film editor, director, and stage manager for a local television station in Nebraska.

Chairman

From the '60s and onward, he wrote and produced for Columbia, Lorimar, Paramount, Disney, NBC, ABC, and CBS. He has been chairman and professor of screenwriting of the UCLA Department of Film and Television since 1988, and professor and designer of the European Conservatory for Screenwriting at the University of Paris, Sorbonne since 1995. Hunter also holds two Master's degrees in Film and Radio-TV from UCLA and Northwestern, respectively.

In his book, Hunter explains that, like his 434 class, the book will "take you step by step and demystify the process, yet simultaneously suggest the profundity of it all."

He goes on to say that the book "is designed to be simple, yet not simplistic. I mean to give you vision, hope, confidence, and a beacon light to shine upon your own special creativity." With such encouragement, he makes it easier for terrified first-time writers to take the plunge and "write on."

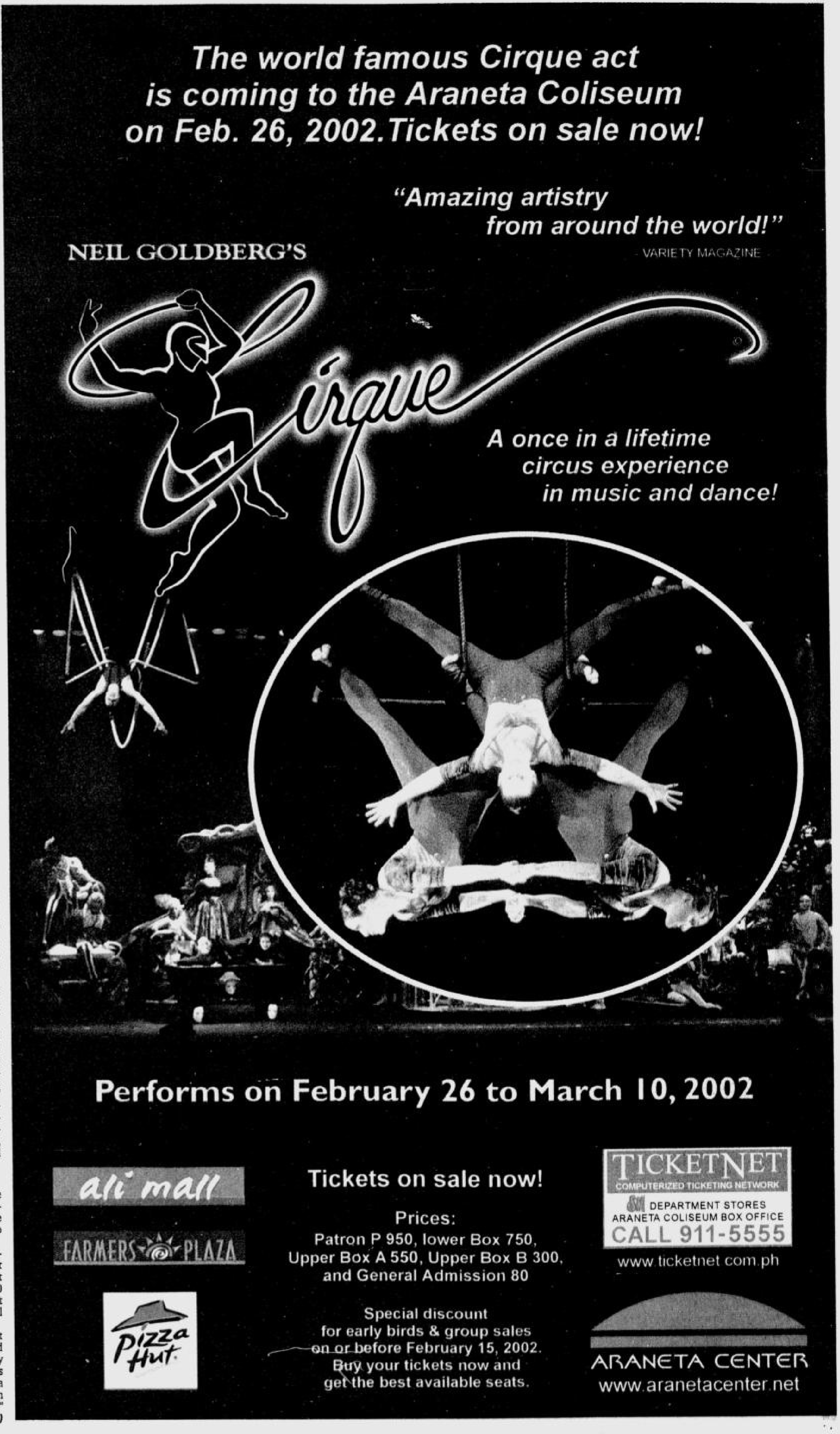
Hunter holds one's metaphorical hand throughout this book as he guides the writer from formulating a good idea (because "a story with a stupid central idea, no matter how brilliantly the story is told, will be a stupid story") to writing the outline and rewriting the first draft ("Be tough on yourself").

Enthusiasm

His encouraging tone, enthusiasm for the writer/reader's talent (he assumes you have talent), and wise insights give aspiring writers the chance to walk a relatively smooth road to screenwriting stardom.

The first chapter is all about ideas and is chock-full of tips on how to choose and develop the right one. Hunter gives five criteria for a good idea: it must promise conflict, be meaty enough for 100 pages of script, must be dramatize-able, must "scream for visualization," and have "the potential for sex/and or violence."

We didn't quite agree with the last criterion at first but he changed our mind when he explained that, "Greek theater, Shakespeare, and actually everything of quality known to Western persons has a significant undertow of sex or violence, or a combination thereof. To deny it is insane and even worse, wrong." He tells us to think "Oedipus Rex" and Tennessee Williams. ***(To be concluded)***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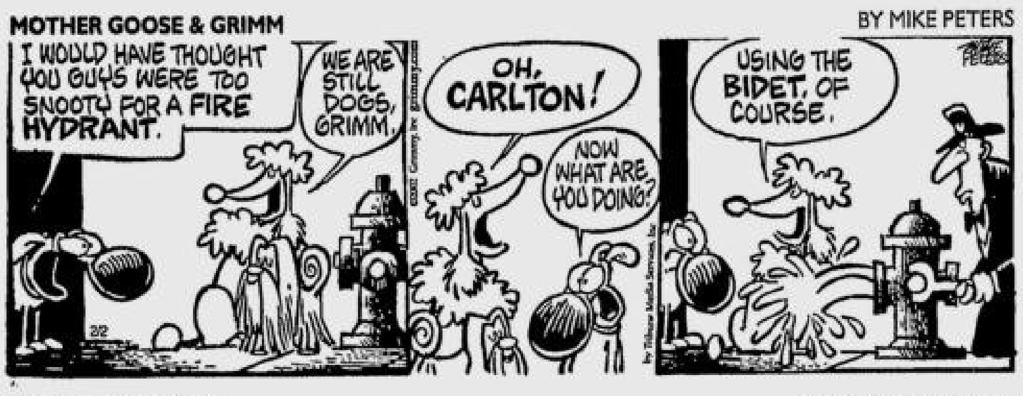
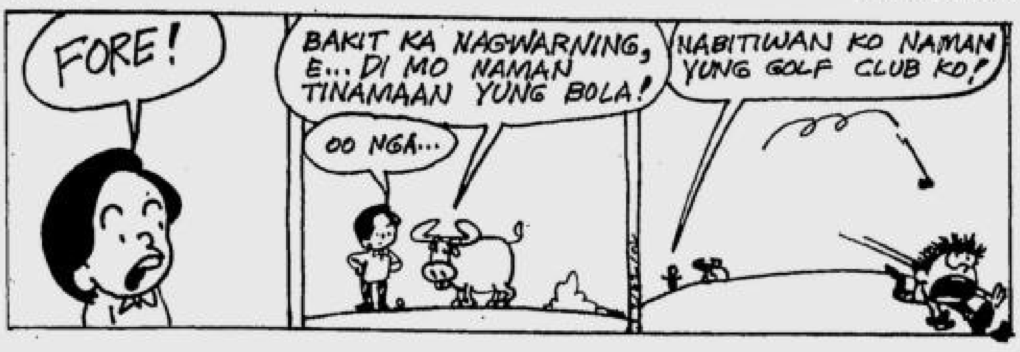
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE TOO SNOOTY FOR A FIRE HYDRANT.
WE ARE STILL DOGS, GRIMM.
OH, CARLTON!
NOW WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
USING THE BIDET, OF COURSE.
2/2

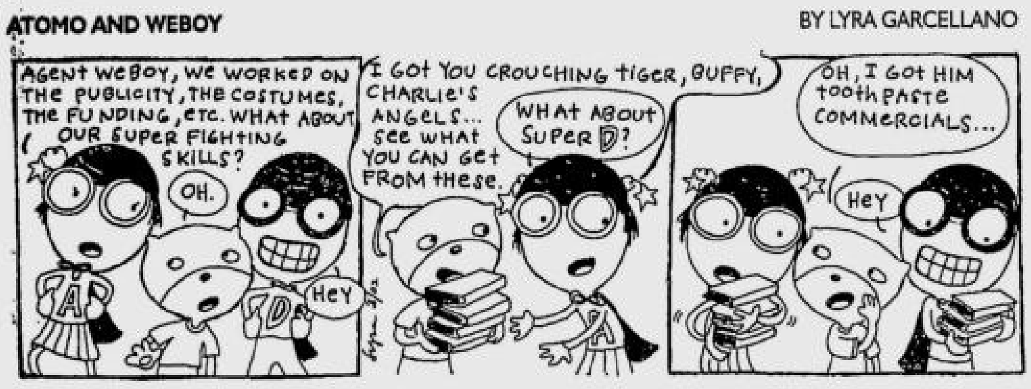
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


FORE!
BAKIT KA NAGWARNING, E... DI MO NAMAN TINAMAAN YUNG BOLA!
OO NGA...
NABITIWAN KO NAMAN YUNG GOLF CLUB KO!

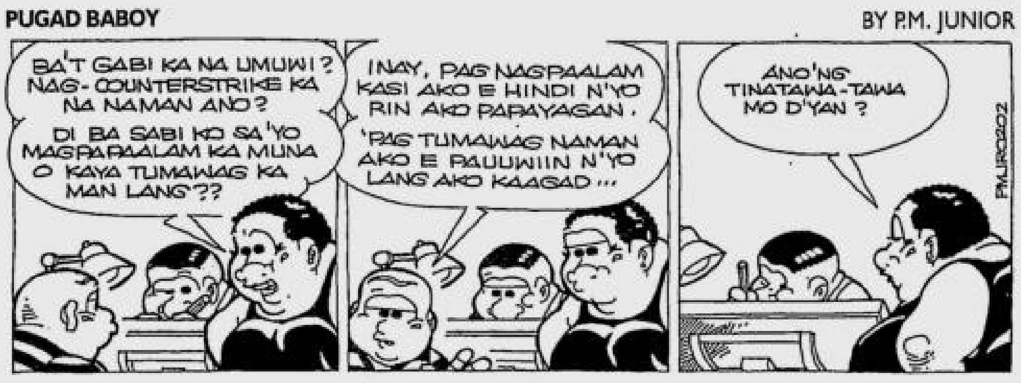
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AGENT WEBOY, WE WORKED ON THE PUBLICITY, THE COSTUMES, THE FUNDING, ETC. WHAT ABOUT OUR SUPER FIGHTING SKILLS?
OH.
HEY
I GOT YOU CROUCHING TIGER, BUFFY, CHARLIE'S ANGELS... SEE WHAT YOU CAN GET FROM THESE.
WHAT ABOUT SUPER D?
OH, I GOT HIM TOOTHPASTE COMMERCIALS...
HEY

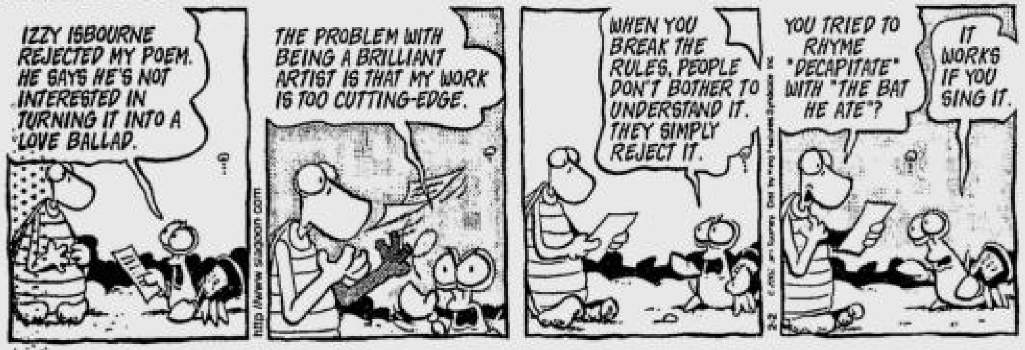
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BA'T GABI KA NA UMUWI? NAG-COUNTERSTRIKE KA NA NAMAN ANO?
DI BA SABI KO SA'YO MAGPAPAALAM KA MUNA O KAYA TUMAWAG KA MAN LANG??
INAY, PAG NAGPAALAM KASI AKO E HINDI N'YO RIN AKO PAPAYAGAN.
'PAG TUMAWAG NAMAN AKO E PAUUWIIN N'YO LANG AKO KAAGAD...
ANO'NG TINATAWA-TAWA MO D'YAN?
PMJR0202

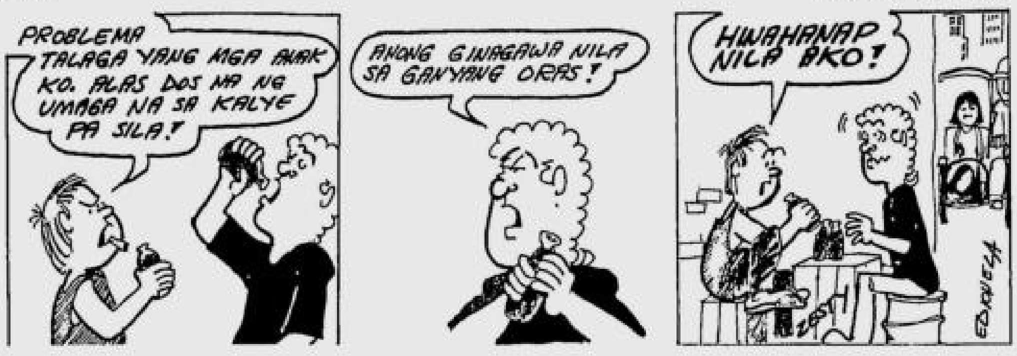
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


IZZY ISBOURNE REJECTED MY POEM. HE SAYS HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN TURNING IT INTO A LOVE BALLAD.
THE PROBLEM WITH BEING A BRILLIANT ARTIST IS THAT MY WORK IS TOO CUTTING-EDGE.
WHEN YOU BREAK THE RULES, PEOPLE DON'T BOTHER TO UNDERSTAND IT. THEY SIMPLY REJECT IT.
YOU TRIED TO RHYME "DECAPITATE" WITH "THE BAT HE ATE"?
IT WORKS IF YOU SING IT.
http://www.slagoon.com
2-2

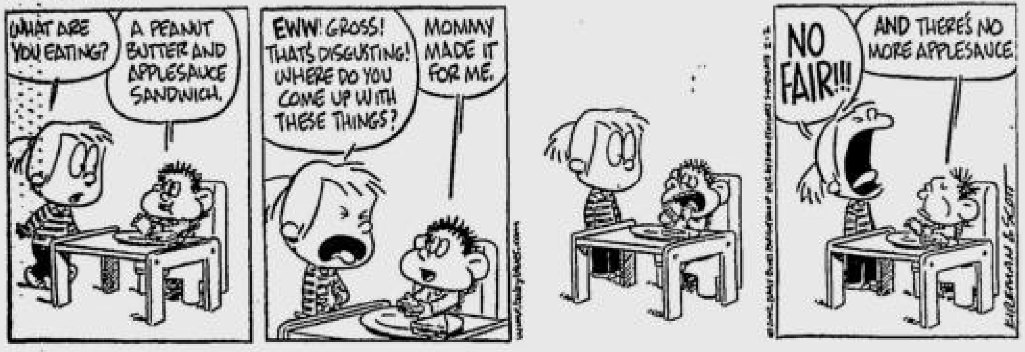
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PROBLEMA TALAGA YANG MGA ANAK KO. ALAS DOS NA NG UMAGA NA SA KALYE PA SILA!
ANONG GINAGAWA NILA SA GANYANG ORAS!
HINAHANAP NILA AKO!
EDGAR DIONELA

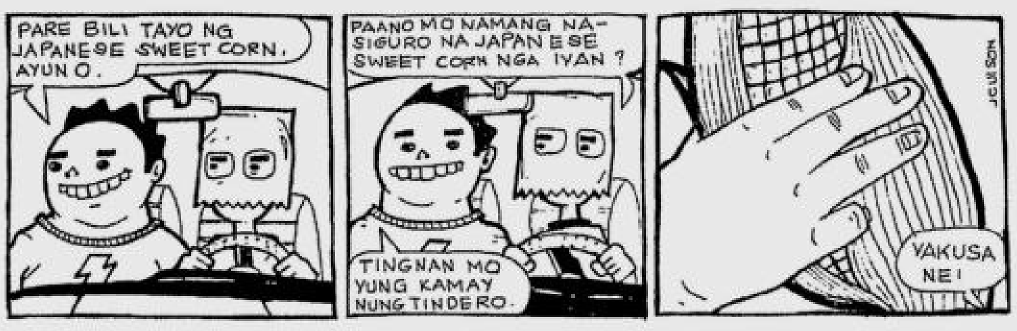
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU EATING?
A PEANUT BUTTER AND APPLESAUCE SANDWICH.
EWW! GROSS! THAT'S DISGUSTING! WHERE DO YOU COME UP WITH THESE THINGS?
MOMMY MADE IT FOR ME.
NO FAIR!!!
AND THERE'S NO MORE APPLESAUCE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


PARE BILI TAYO NG JAPANESE SWEET CORN. AYUN O.
PAANO MO NAMANG NASIGURO NA JAPANESE SWEET CORN NGA IYAN?
TINGNAN MO YUNG KAMAY NUNG TINDERO.
YAKUSA NE!
JCUISON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christie Brinkley, Farrah Fawcett, Tommy Smothers, Dexter Manley

Happy Birthday: The changes going on around you may be unnerving but if you are steadfast in your accomplishments you will find that everything will turn out okay. You should be trying to learn as much as possible about new techniques that could lead you to a higher position professionally. Your numbers are 4, 15, 22, 26, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be in the spotlight due to your dynamic personality today. Make favorable changes to your home but don't overspend in the process.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may suffer delays if you haven't taken the time to make proper arrangements. Avoid doing things with unreliable individuals. If you are well organized you will avoid a multitude of setbacks.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Unleash the talent within you. You have to find an outlet for your creative needs. Take the time to plan your course of action so that you don't take on unnecessary projects.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be emotional and overreact today. Step back and review your situation before you decide to get involved in a family squabble that will make you nervous and stressed out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you lend a helping hand to others you will reap the rewards and once again be in the limelight for your outstanding contributions. Don't try to impress someone by donating more than you can afford.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may want to look into courses that will help you raise your earning potential. You will have the discipline and the desire to complete what you begin.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't pile too many projects on your plate without knowing what your options are today. If you get the chance to have some fun it is best to leave your chores undone. You need the relief from the fast pace that you normally keep.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can't trust everyone around you. Put your energy into worthwhile causes. Spend time with someone special, not a whole crowd.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Partnerships and friendships will develop through the company you keep. The more aware you are of those around you the better off you'll be.

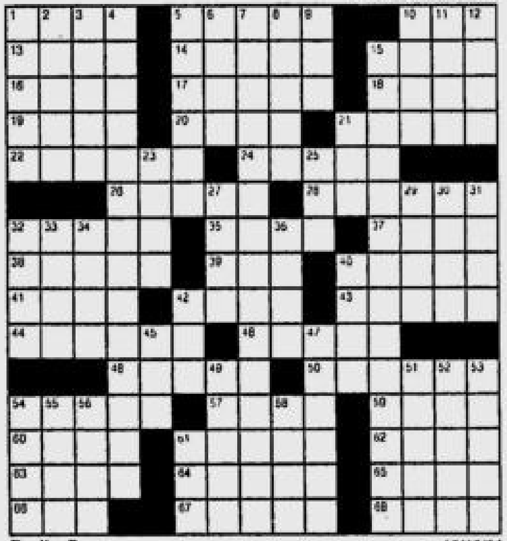
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be forced to spend more than you really want to. You may want to check out your personal options before you make your final decision. Travel is your best bet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you believe in something follow through with your basic instincts. You will benefit from those who offer you a better position or a better deal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do things for yourself today. If you wait around for someone else that individual will end up disappointing you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Jim Page
New York, NY

12/18/01

ACROSS
1 "__ brillig..."
5 Hangs onto
10 Mouse surface
13 Scrub up
14 "Butterfield 8" author
15 Baylor U. city
16 Pelvis bones
17 Befell
18 Mimics
19 Vitreous residue
20 Playthings
21 Forest space
22 Hair mess
24 Fashionable tie
26 Long
28 Most peculiar
32 Maliciously sarcastic
35 Singer Anita
37 Wight or Man
38 Fusses
39 Letters on Cardinals' caps
40 Ruby Dee's Davis
41 Really excited
42 "Days of Grace" author
43 Clove hitch and sheepshank
44 Supervised
46 Napoleon's fate
48 Boob tube
50 Moonlighter's other work
54 Pacific island group
57 Seed coat
59 Tiger's warning
60 Get an earful of
61 Slope
62 Lupino and Tarbell
63 Exuding moisture
64 Bugs' pursuer
65 Rhythmic cadence
66 Smallest bill
67 Kinds
68 Private dining room?

DOWN
1 Checker's dance
2 Half a city?
3 Oriental
4 "Old Yeller," perhaps
5 Beverage pick
6 Buckeye State
7 Puppy-love film?
8 Garb
9 Morose
10 Bear dad
11 Got a top grade
12 Prescribed amount
15 "101 Dalmations," e.g.
21 George Burns part
23 Majors and Grant
25 Coquettish
27 Antarctic sea
29 Mobil rival of old
30 Skirt opening
31 Golfer's gadgets
32 Wild guess
33 Inoperative, to NASA
34 Altar assents
36 TV's Trebek
40 Neighbor of Colo.
42 Commercial bits
45 A Gabor
47 Slugabeds
49 Ahead of time
51 Foster of "Nell"
52 Face-to-face exams
53 Surpasses
54 Buzz off!
55 Semi-eternity?
56 Labyrinth
58 French thought
61 Fetch

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	O	M	E	■	S	L	O	B	S	■	A	R	G	O
I	D	E	S	■	P	A	B	L	O	■	D	O	U	G
R	O	M	P	E	R	R	O	O	M	■	H	U	R	L
K	R	O	N	A	■	D	E	C	A	L	O	G	U	E
■	■	■	■	S	S	S	■	■	L	E	C	H	■	■
S	T	R	A	T	A	■	D	O	I	N	■	R	E	A
T	R	O	U	S	S	E	A	U	■	A	R	I	L	S
Y	A	L	E	■	H	A	R	S	H	■	A	D	I	T
L	I	L	L	Y	■	T	E	T	E	A	T	E	T	E
E	T	S	■	U	S	S	R	■	R	E	A	R	E	R
■	■	R	A	K	E	■	■	E	L	I	■	■	■	■
C	R	O	S	S	E	Y	E	D	■	O	S	A	K	A
L	A	Y	S	■	R	O	A	D	R	U	N	N	E	R
O	N	C	E	■	E	Y	R	I	R	■	I	T	E	M
D	I	E	T	■	D	O	S	E	S	■	P	E	N	S

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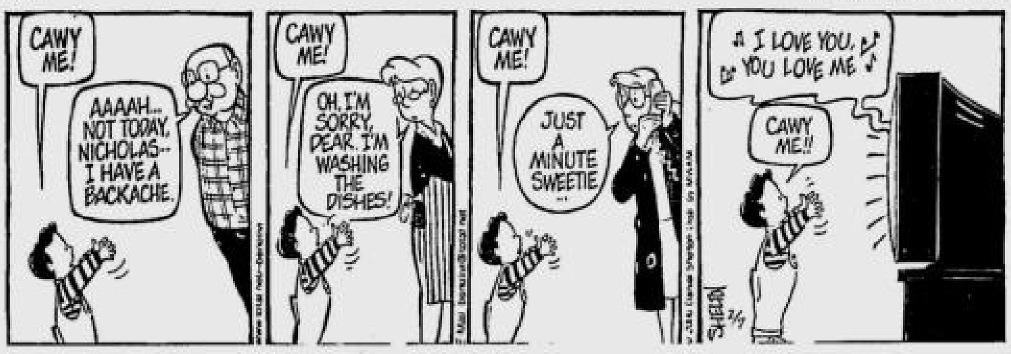
12/18/01

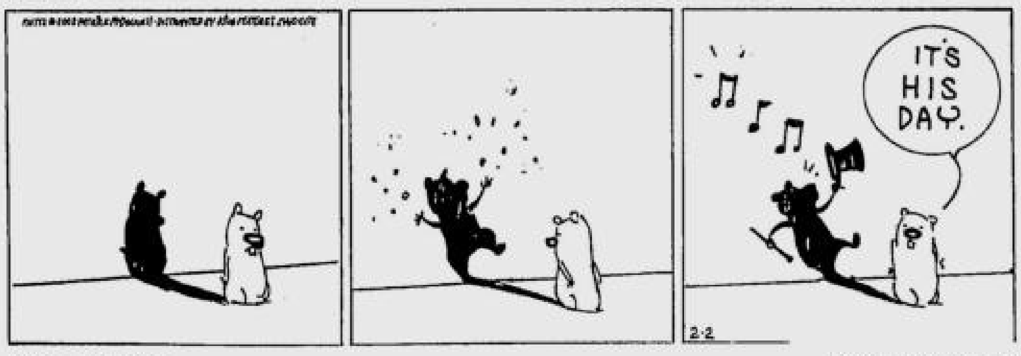
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


CAWY ME!
AAAAH... NOT TODAY, NICHOLAS-- I HAVE A BACKACHE.
CAWY ME!
OH, I'M SORRY, DEAR. I'M WASHING THE DISHES!
CAWY ME!
JUST A MINUTE SWEETIE...
♫ I LOVE YOU, YOU LOVE ME ♫
CAWY ME!!
SHELTON

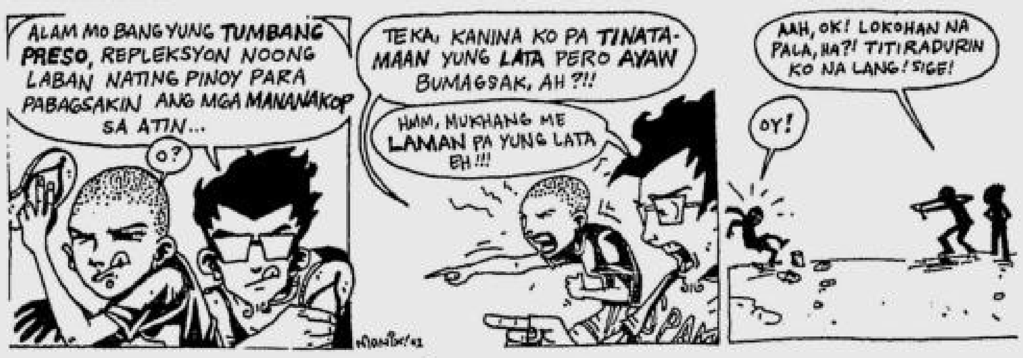
MUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL


IT'S HIS DAY.
2-2

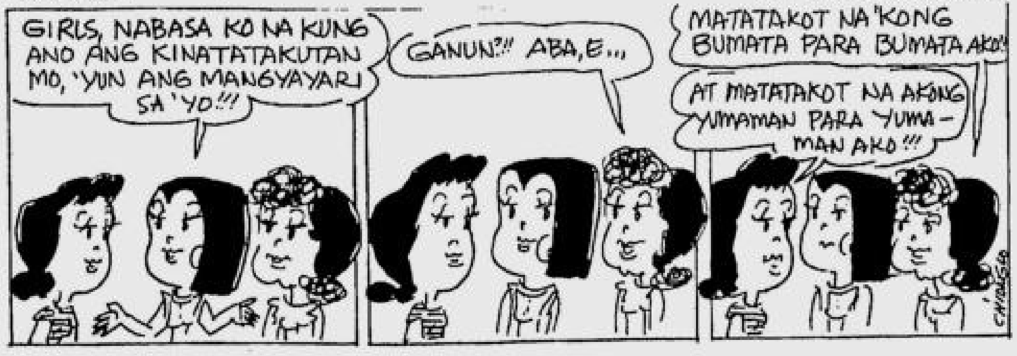
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ALAM MO BANG YUNG TUMBANG PRESO, REPLEKSYON NOONG LABAN NATING PINOY PARA PABAGSAKIN ANG MGA MANANAKOP SA ATIN...
O?
TEKA, KANINA KO PA TINATAMAAN YUNG LATA PERO AYAW BUMAGSAK, AH?!!
HMM, MUKHANG ME LAMAN PA YUNG LATA EH!!!
SPAK
AAH, OK! LOKOHAN NA PALA, HA?! TITIRADURIN KO NA LANG! SIGE!
OY!

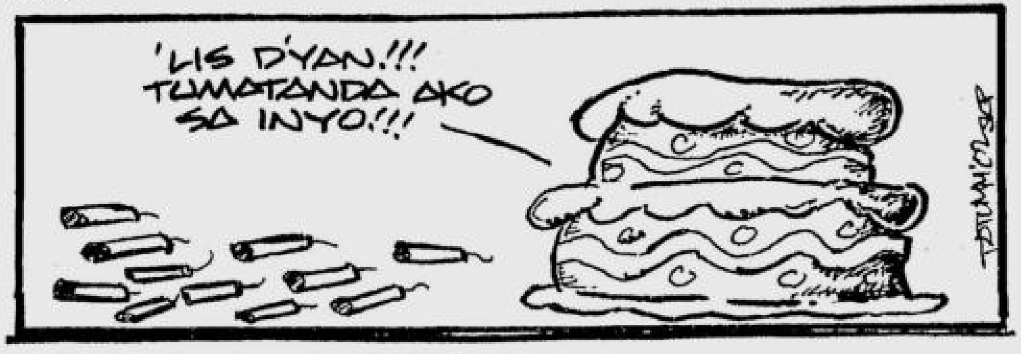
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


GIRLS, NABASA KO NA KUNG ANO ANG KINATATAKUTAN MO, 'YUN ANG MANGYAYARI SA 'YO!!!
GANUN?!! ABA, E...
MATATAKOT NA'KONG BUMATA PARA BUMATA AKO!
AT MATATAKOT NA AKONG YUMAMAN PARA YUMAMAN AKO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'LIS D'YAN!!! TUMATANDA AKO SA INYO!!!

In 'Kate and Leopold,' lovers are separated by 100 years

LEOPOLD: "In the Victorian Age, men and women attempted to act as perfect gentlemen and ladies, following precise conventions of courtship and public behavior. It was a time of dramatic gestures, grand fantasies and great leisure, when how one conducted oneself and revealed one's innermost values were more important than anything else."

Volatile

Kate: "In today's Digital Age, relations between men and women have become fast-paced, high-tech and as volatile as life itself—and civility and grace have taken the backseat to contemporary notions of individuality, practicality and success."

Meg Ryan and Hugh Jackman star in "Kate & Leopold," an original romantic fable about two strangers in New York City separated by a hundred years. The two are brought together when Leopold is transported to the present through a rip in the fabric of time. When they meet and fall in love, a century's worth of difference come crashing together!

When asked about what for them is marriage, He said: "Marriage is a promise of eternal love. As a man of honor, I cannot promise eternally what I have never felt momentarily." She said: "You can't live a fairy tale."

And what for them is the meaning of life? He said, "Life is not solely composed of tasks, but tastes." She said, "I've been paying dues all my life. I'm tired and I need a rest, and if I have to sell pond scum to get it, then so be it."

Cosmopolitan

Kate is after all a 21st-century woman of the world. Cosmopolitan, highly driven. Successful in her career but hiding a lot under her tailored business suits. To the outside world, she is this dynamic, ladder-climbing executive who's got it all together, but at home, she's heartbroken and lonely.

Kate is dying for something honest, but she's grown a tad cynical about love. So when she meets Leopold, she's convinced that he's another manufactured fantasy.

She said: "I don't have time for speeches from 200-year-old-men who have never had to work a day in their life." He said: "What has happened to the world? You have every convenience, every comfort, yet no time for integrity."

Leopold, on the other hand, is a charming gent, the Duke of Albany and bachelor of the late 1800s. An inventor in his time, Leopold finds fulfillment in the present. Awed but understanding of the current lifestyle.

But what he discovers more importantly is that, in a 21st-century world of greater freedom, he finally can see a woman's full power, sensuality and intelligence, and that allows him to fall in love for the first time.

In Kate, he finds a woman who to him is like a miracle—the first woman he's ever met free enough to be herself.

But then again, can their cultural differences cross that 100-year divide? And in this savvy, liberated modern world of ours, can true romance still exist?

JACKMAN AND RYAN. Can true romance still exist?

CLAVIO. His niceness is no weakness.

AM/FM

Enriquez, Clavio prove nice guys don't finish last

By Rito P. Asilo

WE checked out dzBB's "Saksi sa Double B" (6 a.m. to 8 a.m., 594 kHz on AM), hosted by GMA anchor Mike Enriquez, and Arnold Clavio and Raul Virtudazo's "Double A sa Double B" (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.) recently.

We noted that, in both shows, sarcasm dripped not infrequently from the mouths of the hosts, particularly Clavio's. We had a good laugh listening to Arnold's comments on Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte's inability to rid a busy highway of vendors who congest the already narrow street even more, thereby creating monstrous traffic jams.

In jest, of course, he taunted, "*Dapat lambingin ni* No. 1 Councilor Aiko Melendez *si* Mayor *na lutasin na ang problemang ito.*"

Mouthful

For his part, we overheard Enriquez say a mouthful about what he thought of our "selective" justice system: "*Hinihingan natin ng* justice *at* rights *ang mga magnanakaw*, rapist, kidnapper *at iba pang mga halang ang kaluluwa, habang ang mga biktima nila, patay!*" Our thoughts exactly!

But Clavio and Enriquez managed to keep the double-entendre remarks inoffensive.

Unfortunately, this "niceness" can be perceived as a weakness among news anchors. And they try to remedy this supposed minus point by "creating" characteristic vocal stylings to showcase stronger personalities.

Particularly with Enriquez, that can be off-putting sometimes. Those who had heard Mike in his pre-"Saksi" days swear he didn't have those verbal affectations then.

But, while Mike and Arnold shared their opinion on issues, they were not arrogant and all-knowing, like many other news anchors. They found positive use for their "niceness"—they were able to speak their mind without sounding offensive. This gave them an excuse to ask even invasive questions.

Arnold's "friendly taunts" clearly showed how he disapproved of Piston's obstinate refusal to lower fare rates despite the continuous drop in oil prices on the international market. And his reactions to on-line guests who gave obtuse answers to simple questions were on-target.

When a police official bade goodbye after giving an account of a crime, the official said, "*Salamat,* Arnold, *at kumusta sa lahat ng mga tagapakinig ng* ABS-CBN!", Clavio could only say, "*Sino ba'ng kausap nun?*"

Loquacious

The loquacious Lolit Solis commented, "Next time, *sabihin ninyo sa mga* reporters *na i*-remind *ang mga iinterbiyuhin nila ng tamang istasyon.* Obvious *na mas nanonood at nakikinig sa kalaban, e,*" then she burst into one of her trademark laughs.

On dzBB's programming, an hourly "Pangunahing Balita" reported updates on important cases. Both "Saksi" and "Double A" featured portions that had "beat experts" reporting on developments in various fields.

We enjoyed Enriquez's enlightening interview with Justice Secretary Nani Perez on the subject of Nur Misuari, where Perez explained the government's arguments on issues concerning Nur's detention, and answered all the questions thrown at him point by point.

For good measure, Mike's show also featured amusing stories from other countries, like the burglary of a factory in Finland known for its highly effective products. Some $50,000 worth of products were stolen from the company. The supposedly highly effective products: burglar alarms!

Now, if only Mike could tone down a bit on his much-too-aggressive vocal technique . . . But perhaps that is asking too much. It's a good thing, though, that in the case of Mike Enriquez and Arnold Clavio, nice guys *don't* finish last!

Enchanted Kingdom

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‘Lakas Sambayanan’ reminds Filipinos of their proud legacy

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday might, we were privileged to be invited to a sneak preview of “Lakas Sambayanan (People Power),” the latest documentary produced by the Foundation for Worldwide People Power. To our mind, this new documentary is the foundation’s best work to date, and we urge you to watch out for it when it is telecast later this month.

Scope and depth

What makes "Lakas Sambayanan" outstanding is its combination of scope and depth. It seeks to do nothing less than to trace the origins of People Power in history, then to determine how it has strengthened democratic institutions in the Philippines, and finally to see where it is headed, despite the distractions and corruptions we've been seeing these past two years.

PEOPLE POWER

MONTANO'S presence as narrator makes the documentary more accessible to young viewers.

The research done by gifted and committed scriptwriter Pete Lacaba and research associate Karen Lacson is truly impressive. Director Butch Nolasco supplements the choice film, video and photo clips uncovered with spot-on interviews with people who were there when the protest movement first started to coalesce as early as the First Quarter Storm in 1970.

Roots

Fact is, the documentary traces the roots of People Power much earlier than that, pointing out that the Filipino's opposition to undemocratic rule manifested itself during the colonial times, and consistently in the decades thereafter.

The docu's detailed, informed and insightful review of the evolution of People Power is an illuminating and invigorating historical survey that everyone should benefit from.

It is a particularly welcome reminder at this time, when political complications and self-serving mutations have threatened to blur the vitality and impact of genuine People Power.

The production not only helps restore proper focus to the veterans of the People Power movement but, perhaps even more importantly, also informs the youth about the courage and love for freedom that is their proud legacy.

Inspired choice

To this end, the foundation's choice of Cesar Montano to narrate "Lakas Sambayanan" is truly inspired. Not only will Cesar's presence give the production much-needed star value to help assure strong viewership, but it will also make the documentary much more accessible to young viewers, not to mention the members of the mass audience.

All of these positive elements fuse together in an informed and integral fashion, and make "Lakas Sambayanan" a must-see TV production.

Resolve

Viewers keep complaining that much of local television is an insult to thinking people, but this documentary not only makes viewers think, it also fires them with a resolve to do their share to help ensure the dynamic and informed use of People Power to transform Philippine society in the years to come.

Our thanks to the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's officers and trustees—Eugenia D. Apostol, president, Doreen G. Fernandez, vice president; Felicitas A. Arroyo, corporate secretary and treasurer; and Jose V. Abueva, Amando Doronila, Edilberto C. De Jesus and Delfin Lazaro, directors. May their faith in the Filipino be vindicated by the eminently successful showing of "Lakas Sambayanan" later this month.

DOWN WITH
CORRUPTION
& GRAFTERS

THE YOUTH has played a crucial role in the development of People Power.

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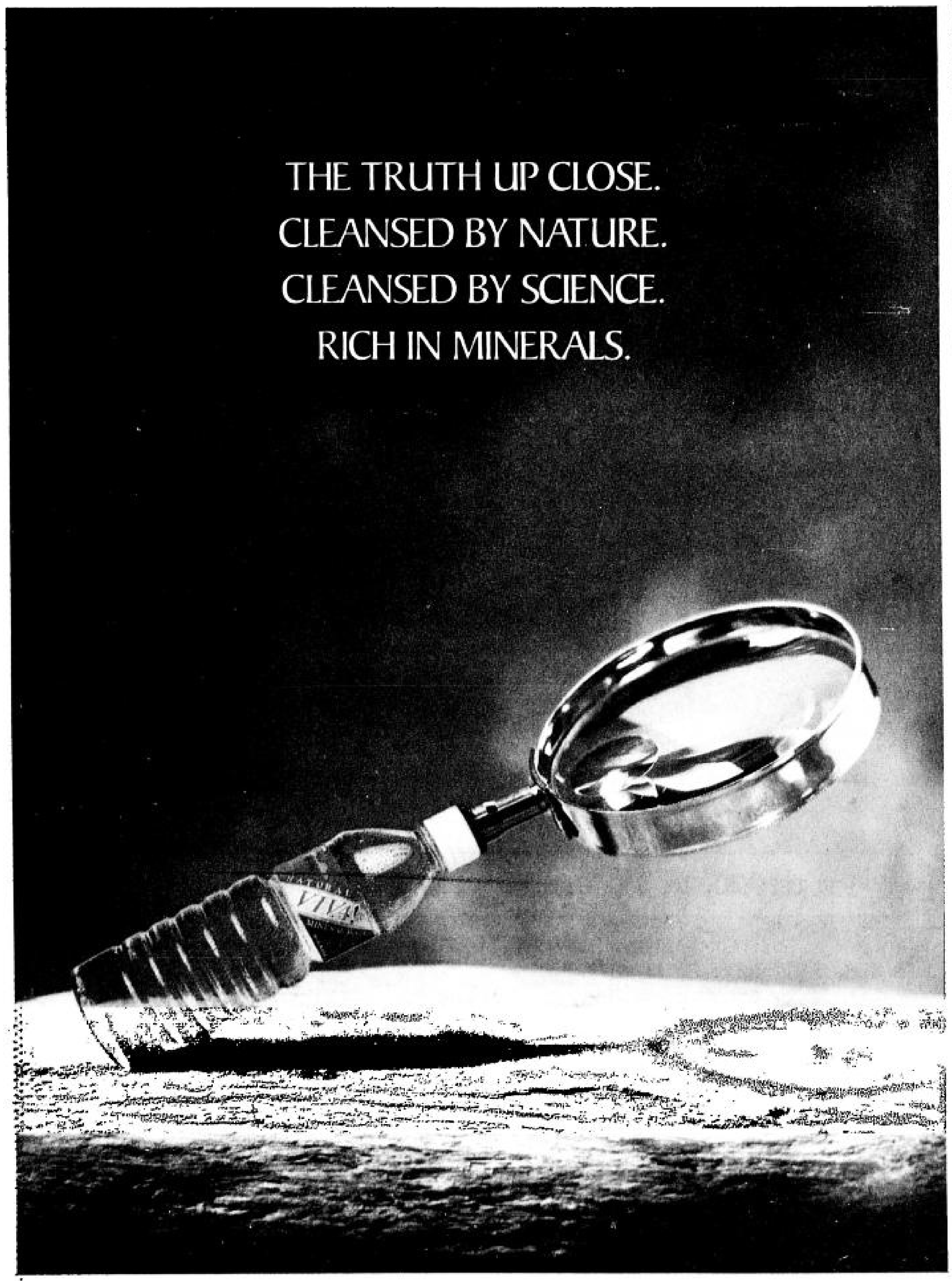

‘Inay’: For mothers and Our Mother

FOR those familiar with the recordings of the Jesuit Music Ministry and Jesuit Communications, these words should not be new:

"Sa mahinahong paalam ng araw,
sa pag-ihip ng hanging kahapunan,
balabal ko'y init ng 'Yong pag-ibig,
sa dapithapong kay lamig.
Mga bitwin, kay agang magsigising, umaandap, mapaglaro man din.
Iyong ngiti's hatid nila sa akin, sa diwa ko't panalangin."

Roughly translated, it goes:

In gentleness of day's farewell,
the breeze of afternoon shall swell
and then your love my soul shall wear, my warmth against the cooling air.
The stars which have so early risen, in heavens play, in frolic glisten.
Your smile their brilliant light reveals in what heart prays and what soul feels.

Birthday

These words come from the song "Inay," written by Arnel Aquino, SJ in celebration of the birthday of our Blessed Mother. Sung by RB Hizon, SJ, the song has been featured in two recordings: "Alay-Kapwa: Huwag Limutin" and "Far Greater Love."

The song speaks of the gentleness of Mary's love, which leads us not only to love her, but to love her Son as well. As the chorus goes:

"Puso ko'y pahimlayin, Inay, upang yaring hamog ng gabing tiwasay ay madama ko bilang damping halik ng 'yong Anak. Ay! Irog kong Inay."

Mother, set my heart at rest, that dew which comes as night's caress
might for me be the kiss so blest
that comes from Son upon your breast.
O Mary, my love, my rest!

Music video

Now, Dave Hukom transforms "Inay" into the latest music video offering from Jesuit Communications. Set at the Marian grotto of Mirador Hill in Baguio and featuring RB Hizon, SJ, "Inay" leads us into a contemplation of the love of mothers and a Mother's love. As the pilgrims of Mirador send their prayers aloft on wings of candleflame, so are our hearts moved by the sheltering love of Mary, and of all mothers.

"Sa palad niyo, itago aking palad.
Aking bakas, sa inyong bakas ilapat,
at iuwi sa tahanan kong dapat, sa piling ng inyong Anak."

Within your palms, do place my own.
My feet after your feet shall roam,
and lead me true to my home:
with Christ, my lord, your Son, your own.

Celebrate the love of mothers and a Mother's love with "Inay," produced by Jesuit Communications.

Go Chiang
Kai Shek!

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2002 ✧ 12 PAGES ✧ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 18

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A Scouting Adventure

Chiang Kai Shek Scouts miss Christmas at home but bring honor to the country at the Hong Kong Jamboree

By Judelio Yap

"WE will do our best to bring home honors to our country," said 16-year-old Patrol Leader Matthew S. Uy as he and 21 other boy and girl scouts of Chiang Kai Shek College in Manila prepared to board a plane bound for Hong Kong on Dec. 23 last year.

Mind you, the scouts weren't going to Hong Kong for a Christmas vacation. They were in full Scout uniform, ready to represent the Philippines in the 90th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Scouting Jamboree.

Busy with Fun

For four days, the campers joined various activities and made friends with Scouts from different countries and cul-

AScouting/p.4

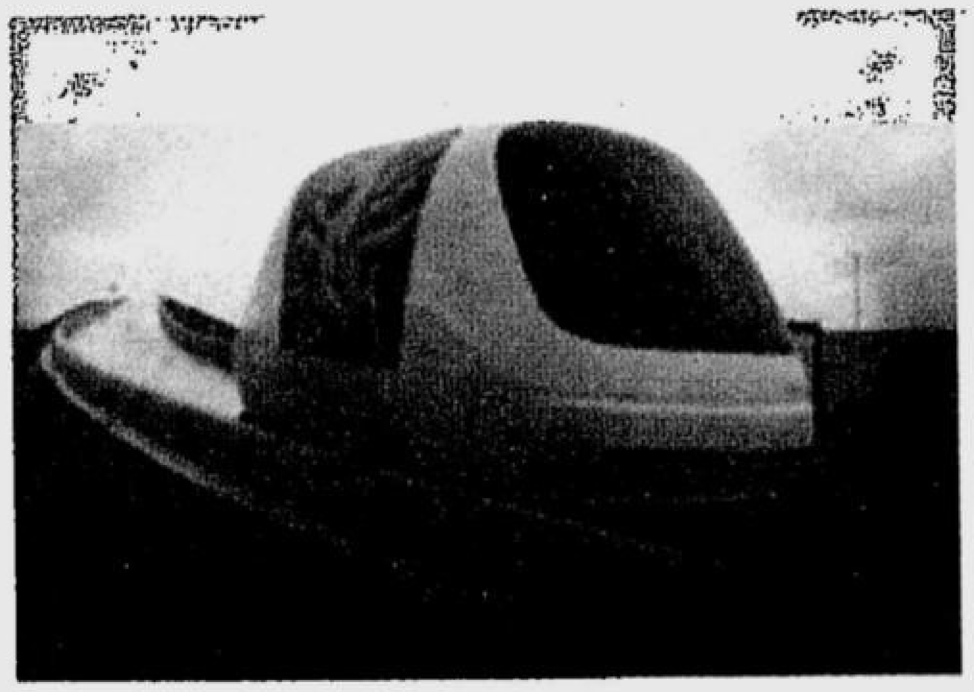
CHAMPS. Chiang Kai Shek Scouts proudly display their gold medals after the rafting event.

Year of Sequels

ACTORS Daniel Radcliffe, left, and Rubert Grint are shown in a scene from "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," in this promotional photo. The year 2002 brings a bounty of sequels, spinoffs, updates and film franchises in the making, led by the latest in the "Star Wars," "Harry Potter," "Lord of the Rings," "Star Trek," "James Bond" and "Austin Powers" series. "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" will be shown in Metro Manila late this year. **AP**

World Scope

Cardiff, Wales
London, England
Mexico City, Mexico
Orlando, USA



Driverless Taxi

THE FIRST new driverless taxi service was tested late last month in Cardiff, Wales. The "ULTra" (Urban Light Transport) is the first of its kind in the world and will travel at a speed of 25 mph. The ULTra is the brainchild of Professor Martin Lowson of Bristol University, who previously worked on the moon-landing space program. The city hopes to have the system running by 2004. **AP**

Animal Kingdom

GETTING your face transformed into the face of a lion or any other wild animal is just another treat on a visit to Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Florida. American kids and their families flock to this theme park every year for rides, games, food and warm weather. **AP**

A Saint for Pets

BEATRIZ Ayala holds her one-year-old hamster Liche outside San Francisco Church in Mexico City, as she waits for Father Roque OFM to bless their pets on the day of Saint Anthony Abad on Jan. 17. Like St. Francis of Assisi, Saint Anthony is also known as a patron saint for animals, especially in Spain and Mexico. **AP**

By Marle't D. Salazar

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Activities

ARTS FESTIVAL. The Philippine High School for the Arts invites all arts enthusiasts to the 2002 Ibarang Arts Festival. It starts Feb. 6 at the National Arts Center in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. Visit Makiling for a month of music, dance and theater performances, exhibits, workshops, book launching, film showing and a lot more as presented by the young artists of PHSA. For inquiries, call up (049) 536-2862; (049) 536-5972.

MAkiling
ARTFEST

Contests

LETTER WRITING. Join the annual PhilPost letter-writing contest. This year's theme is "What peace means to me?" Entries should be handwritten using blue or black ink. Exciting prizes await the winners. Hurry deadline is on Feb. 7. For more important info call up 527-0074 and look for Mr. Rene Ranon.

PBBY POSTER. The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting design proposals for the 2002 NCBD poster. The theme is "Salamat sa Libro, Abot Ko ang Mundo." Entries must be received by PBBY Secretariat not later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 15, 2002. For details call up 372-3548, send an email to pbby@adarna.com.ph, or drop by their office at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City.

Workshops

FREE LEARNING CAMP. Sacred Heart School Sun Valley now offers a Free Learning Camp on all Saturdays of February. Visit them at 390 Sun Valley Drive, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City. Or you can call up 823-1348 or 776-0312 look for Ms Mary Rose.

DANCE CLASS. Dansa Studio now offers dance classes—jazz, streetdance, ballroom, ballet and even taekwondo, and aerobics for kids and adults. Visit them at the 4/F Manna II Bldg., 33 V. Luna Ave., Barangay Pinyahann, Quezon City. Call up 436-6175 or 0917-9868822.

JOLLIBEE KIDS WORKSHOP. Learn arts and craft, dancing, singing and many more when you join the Jollibee Kids Workshop Club. When you become a member you will receive the free monthly issue of JKW Digest. The digest features do-it-yourself arts and crafts, stories and everything you need to learn. For workshop schedules check out the following:

- Jollibee Kalookan-LRT: Lani Carandang—361-7850
- Jollibee Grand Central: Jennifer Chua—363-5653
- Jollibee Sta. Lucia-Phase 1: Cindy Cruz—645-5716

- Jollibee Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall: Rian Torrefranca—681-7320
- Jollibee Royal Family Mall: Alex Domingo—984-5398 to 99
- Jollibee Robinsons Place Metro East: Mike Angeles—645-6295

WRITING. Learn the basics of feature writing and writing for magazines on Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. The workshop's will be held at Earthlite 4/F C.O.D. Department Sore Bldg., Cubao, Quezon City. For more info call up 417-1521 and 0919-7405199.

WANTED: STORYTELLERS. Be a volunteer storyteller in Museo Pambata's Mobile Library Program. You'll meet lots of other kids and get your grubby hands on lots of new and exciting books. Plus, you get to ride on that cool library-on-wheels. To sign up call Noreen at 523-1797 to 98.

RUN! Chicken, run!

Cable Picks

CHICKEN RUN. Watch the hilarious movie "Chicken Run" on HBO on Feb. 16 at 9 p.m. Enjoy the imaginative escape plans of the funny characters. The lead character, Rocky, is voiced by Hollywood star Mel Gibson. Don't miss it!

GREAT EXPERIMENTS. Join Ken Campbell on National Geographic Channel as he retreats to his shed with all kinds of scientific paraphernalia to recreate "The Six Great Experiments that Changed the World." That's every Thursday this February at 10:30 p.m.

A Scouting Adventure

(From page 1)

JUST LIKE LEGOLAS. Nothing like a bracing session of archery in the morning.

tures. Imagine that! There were more than 3,000 campers from 10 nations—Australia, Canada, India, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, the Philippines, People's Republic of China, South Korea and Thailand.

The scouts learned how to use maps and compasses in their orienteering sessions. They also tried out archery, sports climbing and canoeing. They polished their outdoor survival skills and scout craft. There were lessons on amateur radio and astronomy.

A global development village was also set up for the campers to appreciate handicraft, folklore, and environmental protection. They also learned about the cultures of participating countries through cultural expositions and exhibits that featured badges and stamps of the world.

Three Contests

Three competitive activities were also held. There was the triathlon, which included mountain biking, canoeing, and a cross-country race. Another competition was pioneering, where each team was tasked to construct a tree house. Finally, there was a rafting competition, where all members of a team were required to construct a raft according to a diagram and have it paddled to a target by two members.

MALONG 101. The team demonstrates the many ways to use a *malong*.

Rafting Champs

The Philippines Scouts emerged champion in the rafting competition, winning despite having only six team members against all the other teams, which had eight members each.

"Cooperation and remembering that we're representing our country. . .that was our driving force towards exerting our best effort," said Robert Obiles who was a member of the victorious team.

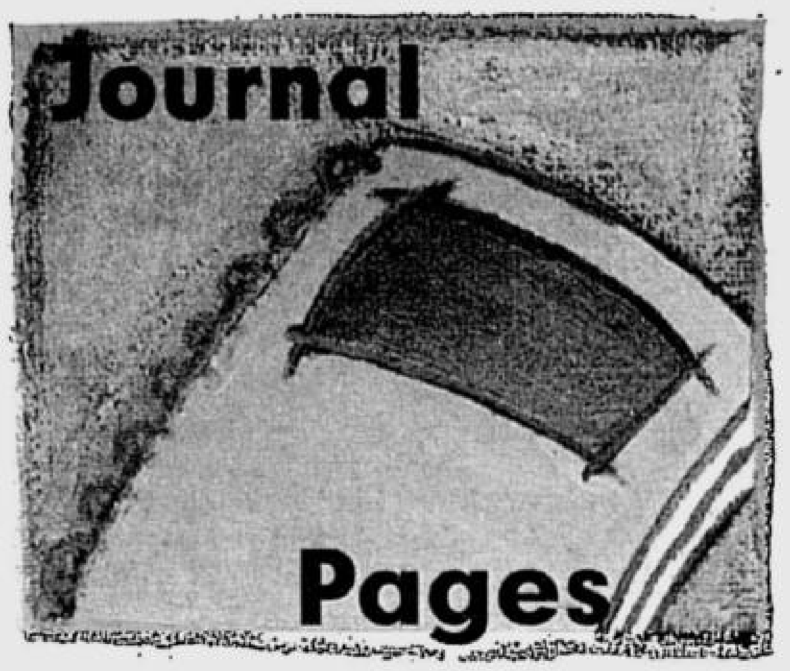
Campfire Fave

Another highlight of the successful stint of the Philippine Scouts in the Jamboree came during the campfire, where the group performed two programs. They received the loudest applause and cheers for their rendition of a popular Chinese song titled "Friends," to the delight of the local campers who were simply amazed that the participants from the Philippines knew how to sing a Chinese Mandarin song. Then, it was followed by a show of Philippine Culture were the Philippine scouts presented a Muslim dance depicting the use of the *malong*.

Finally, the Philippines was lauded for being the only local and overseas group whose members have all attained the "Certificate of Skill-O-Rama."

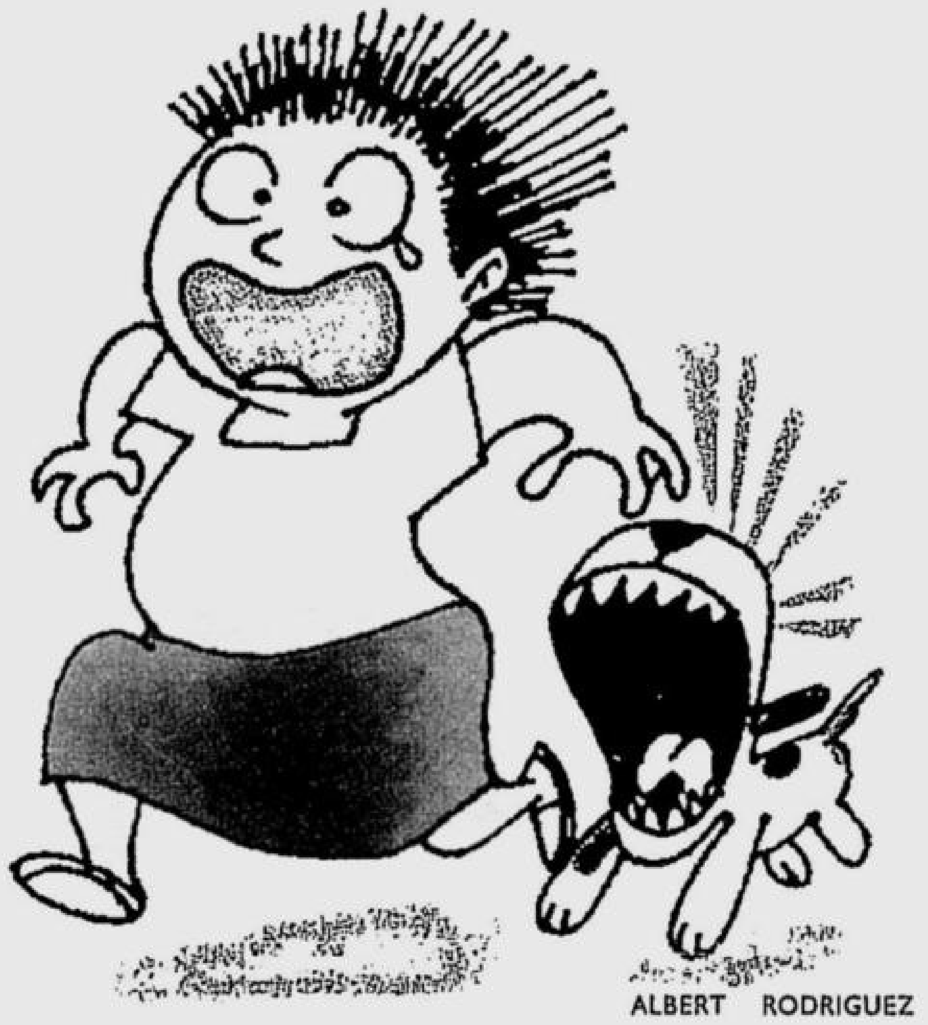
This certificate was awarded to campers who completed all the five activity badges of designated categories, plus gained at least 70 marks out of 100 from actively joining these activities. In short, the "Certificate of Skill-O-Rama" was a proof that the scouts completed all the program items in camp, and gave their best shot in every activity.

AScouting/p.8



Modiako's Attack

By Jhon G. Suganob
Congress Elementary School
Novaliches, Quezon City



ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

MODIAKO is a two-year-old female terrier owned by our next-door neighbor. She is a white and brown dog and looks harmless. But, on Nov. 28 last year, Modiako did something far from pleasant.

It was a beautiful morning when my *tita* decided to visit our neighbors—Modiako's owners. But the morning turned into an emergency situation because Modiako sneaked from behind and bit my *tita* on both legs.

This was such a surprise because Modiako didn't seem to mind my *tita*'s past visits. She would just stay put and wag her tail.

Because there was no first aid kit at our neighbor's house, my *tita* rushed home and asked for a bottle of alcohol, cotton, soap, lukewarm water and Betadine to treat her wounds. After that, she went to the doctor for further treatment.

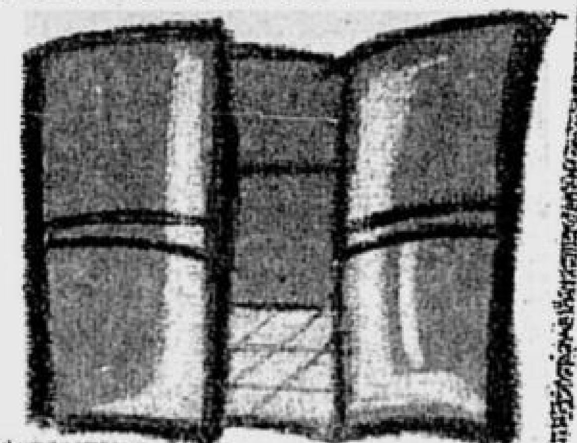
My *tita* found out later on that Modiako was not immunized, so she also had to get anti-tetanus and anti-rabies injections.

My advice to all is to beware of dogs no matter how friendly they seem to be. Also be careful when you handle other animals like cats and monkeys. And pet owners, please have your pet immunized by veterinarians so that they will not pose a health and safety hazard to your neighborhood.

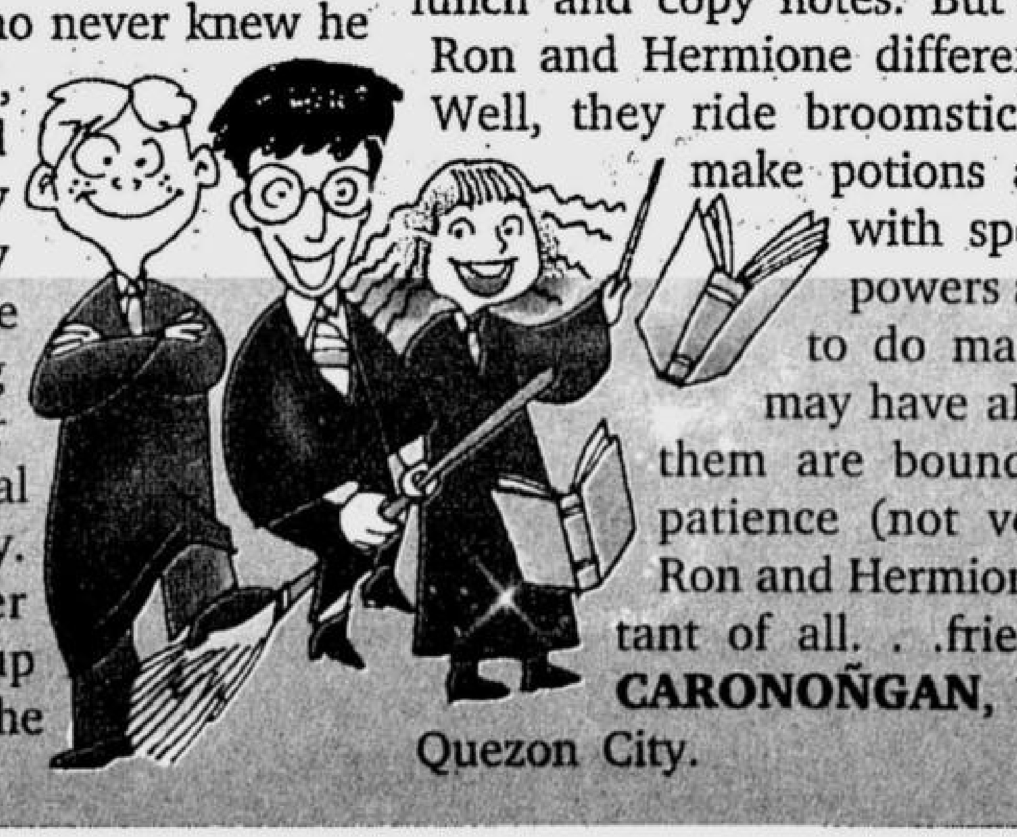
Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



The Ideal Trio



WHAT do you get when you combine a beautiful, Muggle-born witch, a red-haired boy from a pure family of wizards and a boy who never knew he was a wizard? The answer, Hermione Granger, Ronald Weasley and Harry Potter. They are the trio in the first four Harry Potter novels. They will still be there in the three upcoming novels that will tell more of their lives at Hogwarts, the fictional school of witchcraft and wizardry.

There are also many other trios: the American pop group Destiny's Child, the 70's and the present-day "Charlie's Angels," and the Powerpuff Girls. Like the Powerpuff Girls, Hermione, Harry and Ron go to school, have lunch and copy notes. But what makes Harry, Ron and Hermione different from the others? Well, they ride broomsticks, play Quidditch, make potions and they are gifted with special powers. These powers are powerful enough to do magic. So what? They may have all of these, but all of them are bound together by love, patience (not very strong between Ron and Hermione), and most important of all. . .friendship.—**ALIZA P. CARONOÑGAN**, 12, Tahanan Village, Quezon City.

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Goodbye,

An Essay by Francisco Dipasupil Barros
Ateneo Grade School
Illustrations by Lyra Abueg Garcellano

ONE RAINY Tuesday three years ago, I lazily woke up from bed to face another dull day at school. I had slept late because I had to finish so much homework. But a news flash on television said classes were suspended because of strong rains. It was no overstatement: the rain was really pounding hard.

I hurried downstairs for a quick breakfast, but my Dad cut me off.

"Kids stay upstairs for a while, there's something we need to discuss here," he said.

I shrugged at this, not knowing my life would soon change forever.

There were people downstairs huddled together, whispering to each other. I recognized some of them. My Dad was glued to the telephone, talking to someone in a low voice. He looked pained and tired. A handful of my aunts and uncles were there. Some were crying, some were talking and some were calling people on their cellphones. The others were people I never met before, talking about something in soft voices.

The more I saw, the more I was puzzled at what was happening. My siblings were curious too and kept badgering me for answers. What the heck was happening? I thought. A string of questions suddenly popped into my mind. Did something tragic take place? Was there an accident of some kind? And if so, to whom did it happen? A family member? No, a relative perhaps? Or maybe a close friend?

I caught a phrase from one of aunts, "How are we going to tell the kids?" Huh? What was that about? Tell us what? My thoughts were finally silenced when we were summoned by my dad.

"Kiko, Randi, Leon. We have something to tell you."

WE QUICKLY went down, practically dying with suspense. My aunts and uncles gathered to meet us. Almost all of them were crying and speaking softly in sad voices.

"Kids, mommy has left us," said one of my aunts. "But even if you will no longer see her, she will always be with us."

What? This must be a joke, I thought. Is it? Then each of my relatives started coming toward me and starting hugging and comforting my sister Randi, my younger brother, Leon, and me. I realized that this was no joke and I suddenly felt strange.

I felt like the Grim Reaper had driven a hole in my heart with his scythe. I felt pain and anger. I felt the tears coming down my cheeks. I felt the unbearable pain. I felt increasing heartbreak. I felt the intense grief.

THE FIRST few months after the funeral, I began to have some strange dreams. The first dream was in our house. I was watching TV as always then I heard my dad calling my mom, I turned around to see her sitting at the coffee table, working! I was so filled with joy, that I rushed to kiss her. Amazingly, she acted normally and was even surprised at my enthusiastic behavior. Then suddenly, POOF! It all ended. Just like that.

In the second dream, I was in the middle of a cornfield and I saw her face streaking across the sky. Suddenly, the corn stalks grew larger and she drifted farther and farther away.

I miss her a lot. When I was a toddler, she used to read me stories and sing me to sleep. She sang everything from lullabies, to soft songs, but she like rock songs especially! She caressed my hair and patted my back, her way of lulling me to sleep. By encouraging me to read at a very young age, she instilled in me a love for reading, and later on, for writing. But the one thing I miss most about her is her wacky sense of humor and the sound of her laughter ringing in my ears. Only mom can laugh like that: to me it sounded
life.

"I thought wakes were very sad affairs, but my mom's was different. Since she was a very humorous person and so full of life, nobody wanted to cry at her funeral."

I REMEMBER when sh
first day of school at th
when I went to nursery s
to my classroom to mee
mates. I felt relieved bec
old friends from my M
didn't bring me to my c
would never have had t
by myself. Later on, I w
my own, but she had sh

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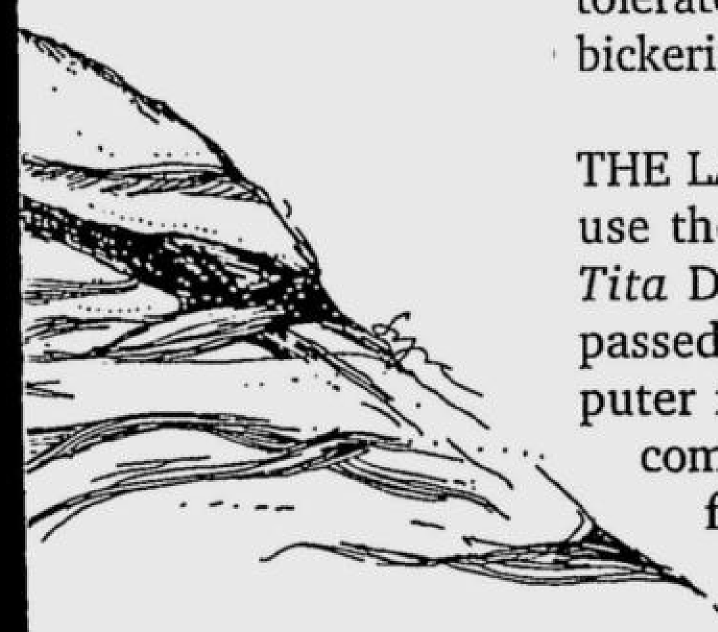
had done so much for m
to go on, even if we sus
ing too well. When we w

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mom



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ent to visit my aunt in

Australia in 1997, I became sick because of the cold climate. She went to a drug store at midnight, just to buy me some medicine. At night, instead of touring Australia or turn in early, I would catch her doing the laundry. She also tolerated my sister and I when we were always bickering at the tourist spots.

THE LAST thing she taught to me was how to use the computer. Before she passed on (my *Tita* Dipsy says she did not pass away, but passed on to a better life), she bought a computer for us. I can still remember the type of computer. It was a Pentium-II computer, the fastest computer in those days. She taught me how to open programs, surf the Internet and use my email. She also taught me how to use Microsoft Word, the program I am using to type this essay now, to tell you my mom's loving deeds. She also bought me the last TinTin book I needed for my growing collection. She bought it in Paris which was where she was headed to for a conference. I didn't know that when I said my sleepy goodbye to her that early morning of Sept. 11, 1998, it would be my last.

At her wake, many of her friends turned up. For one week, they filled the entire chapel with their laughter and told endless stories about my mom. Her friends from grade school to high school and college and her colleagues at work all shared anecdotes with us on how to be her friend. I was surprised because I thought wakes were very sad affairs, but my mom's was different. Since she was a very humorous person and so full of life, nobody wanted to cry at her funeral. I also learned a lot of things I never knew about my mom. About how she was the Holy Terror of her teachers and how she was a campus radical, an anti-Marcos journalist and a lawyer who never charged her clients for her services, most of them poor or workers with very little money.

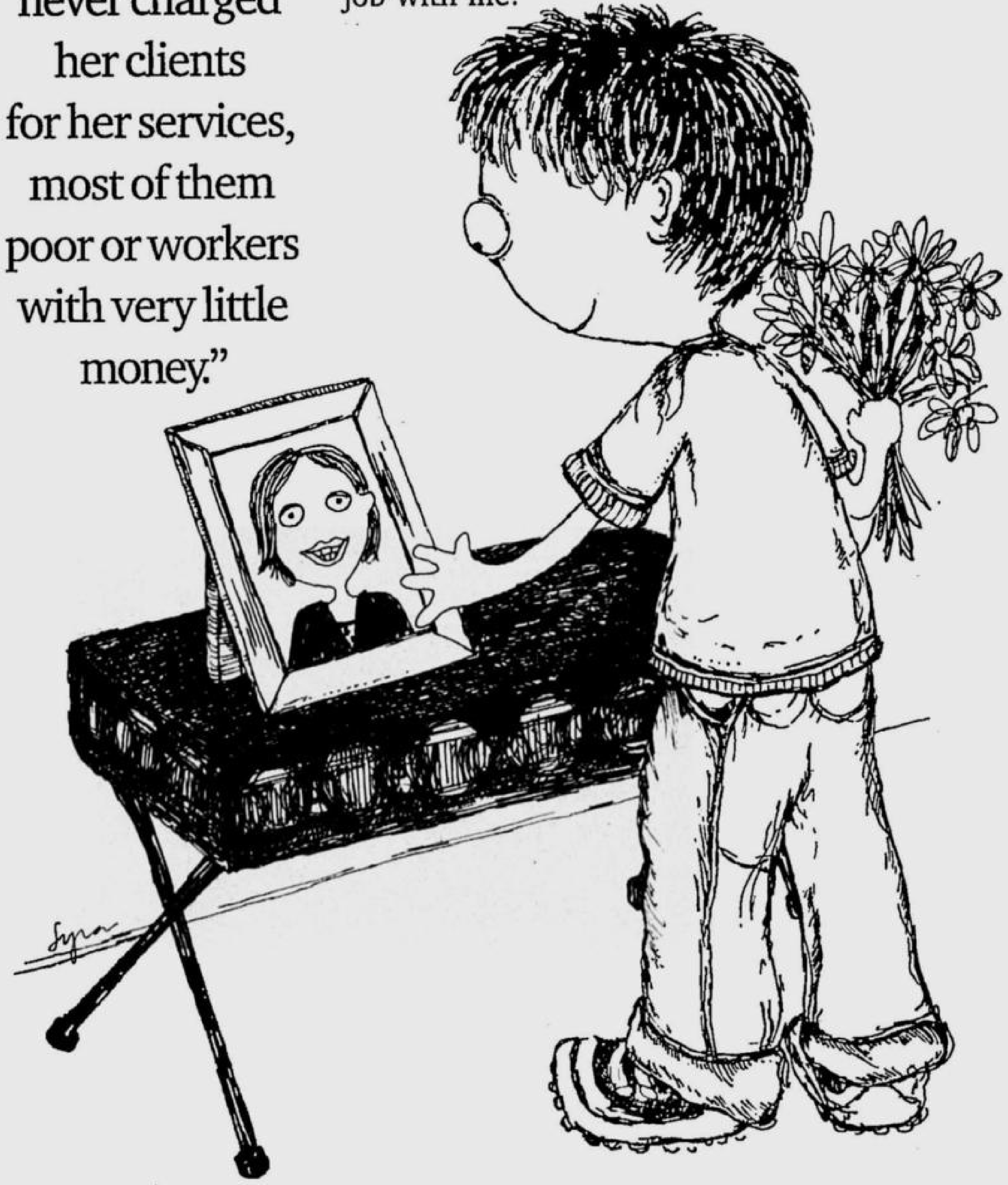
> "I also learned a lot of things I never knew about my Mom. About how she was the Holy Terror of her teachers, how she was a campus radical, an anti-Marcos journalist and a lawyer who never charged her clients for her services, most of them poor or workers with very little money."

AFTER THE PASSING on of my mom, life had changed forever. First, I had a hard time concentrating on schoolwork, because every time I did my homework, she seemed to be at my side working with me. Second, my classmates were bugging me with questions. How did she die? Where? Third, no matter what I did, I couldn't get her off my mind. Whether I watched TV or read a book, I felt her voice calling me to come to her.

But I heard some good advice: "When something bad happens, you just got to hold yourself up and keep on going." This really helped me in accepting mom's death.

Now, three years later, I still miss her but I have adjusted to her physically being away from us. Since her passing, I have gotten lots of support from my aunts and uncles. They have been helping my dad too, in all aspects. We are very grateful to this for it helped us all hang on and continue living, though this way of life has been changed forever.

I believe that she is always watching us, helping us and guiding us to a better future. And mom, if you're reading this over my shoulder which I'm sure you are, I think you did a great job with me!



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CAMPUS
NEWS

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

Diary of a Mini-Teacher

By Angelique Jean Lusnan
St. Stephen High School
Tondo, Manila

DAY 1: Smooth Sailing

All of us mini-teachers, including myself had no problems yet. I suppose we all felt mixed feelings of fun and nervousness when teaching the grade school students. We gave exams to some classes with the help of real teachers, of course.

Day 2: Misbehaving

The classes were now getting rough to handle. Some mini-teachers have had to holler to control their students. The best sections, however, were well-behaved. I taught Math to fifth-graders.

Day 3: Oh, the Stress!

The classes were getting rowdier. We had to be strict so they would behave. All of us mini-teachers were always so busy teaching the classes and preparing for the next day's lessons.

Day 4: Stage Fright Done

This time we felt more comfortable with our students. There was no more stage fright and anxiety. There were some problems though. We missed our own tests in our regular classes and had to catch up with the new lessons for the whole week. Pretty tough and challenging for a high school kid, don't you think?

Day 5: The Last Day

Our last day as mini-teachers. The class expressed their gratitude for our time and bid us goodbye. It was exhausting but fun for us. It was also memorable for them in spite for our little misunderstandings.

My Thoughts

It was a unique experience for me. I nearly lost my voice because I wanted them to understand what I was teaching. My feet ached after all that standing.

I realized that being a student was easy since you just listened. But a teacher needs to have skills to teach clearly, properly and have an impact on her students.

I also learned the importance of preparation, patience, self-confidence and responsibility. I thank my school for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

A Scouting Adventure

(From page 4)

Away from Home

The camp was well set by the organizers, but the weather was really cold especially at night when the temperature would drop to as low as 5 degrees Centigrade. It was also a sacrifice of sort for the Philippine scouts because they spent Christmas away from their family. So, on Dec. 25, the scouts queued line on the phone booths to greet their loved ones "Merry Christmas."

"It is an experience I will never forget," said John Kendric See who spent not only Christmas but also his 16th birthday last Dec. 24 at the camp.

After the tiring yet fun-filled Jamboree, the scouts spent four more days in Hong Kong enjoying its sights and sounds. Of course, shopping and sightseeing were part of the itinerary. They visited popular destinations like Ocean Park, Stanley Market and the Murray House, the Victoria Peak, and the Lions Education Center, among others. They experienced riding the ferry and the century-old tram and went to two night markets for a taste of Hong Kong at night. They also toured the Windows of the World in Shenzhen City, China, before coming back to Manila.

Well, the Jamboree in Hong Kong gave the scouts something to remember, after all, who wouldn't be really proud to represent his country to such an important activity?

PHOTO BREAK. The Tsinoy scouts take a breather in between outdoor workshops.

The Ultimate PET GUARDIAN

Having pets, says this animal lover, means really, really taking care of them yourself

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

MARIEL Vera-Go, a 31-year-old graphic designer, is what you call a responsible pet caretaker. Having lived on the family farm until she was 4 years old, her first pet was a piglet who had a penchant for peeing puddles on her. She also had an abandoned calf and a Maya fledgling.

Today her animal pals include five turtles; two mice; a cockatoo; a duck family; bantam chickens; cats Mayhem, Mischief, their caboodle; and miniature pinschers Fury, Ferris, Sassy, and Chili. Tanya, her beloved 14-year-old miniature pinscher, died recently.

Mariel has loved animals for as long as she can remember. Her family loves animals too: Mariel's mother is a veterinarian and her father owns a farm. And her grandmother was what she called a "cat magnet."

Mariel remembers a time when they had a lot of geese in the house.

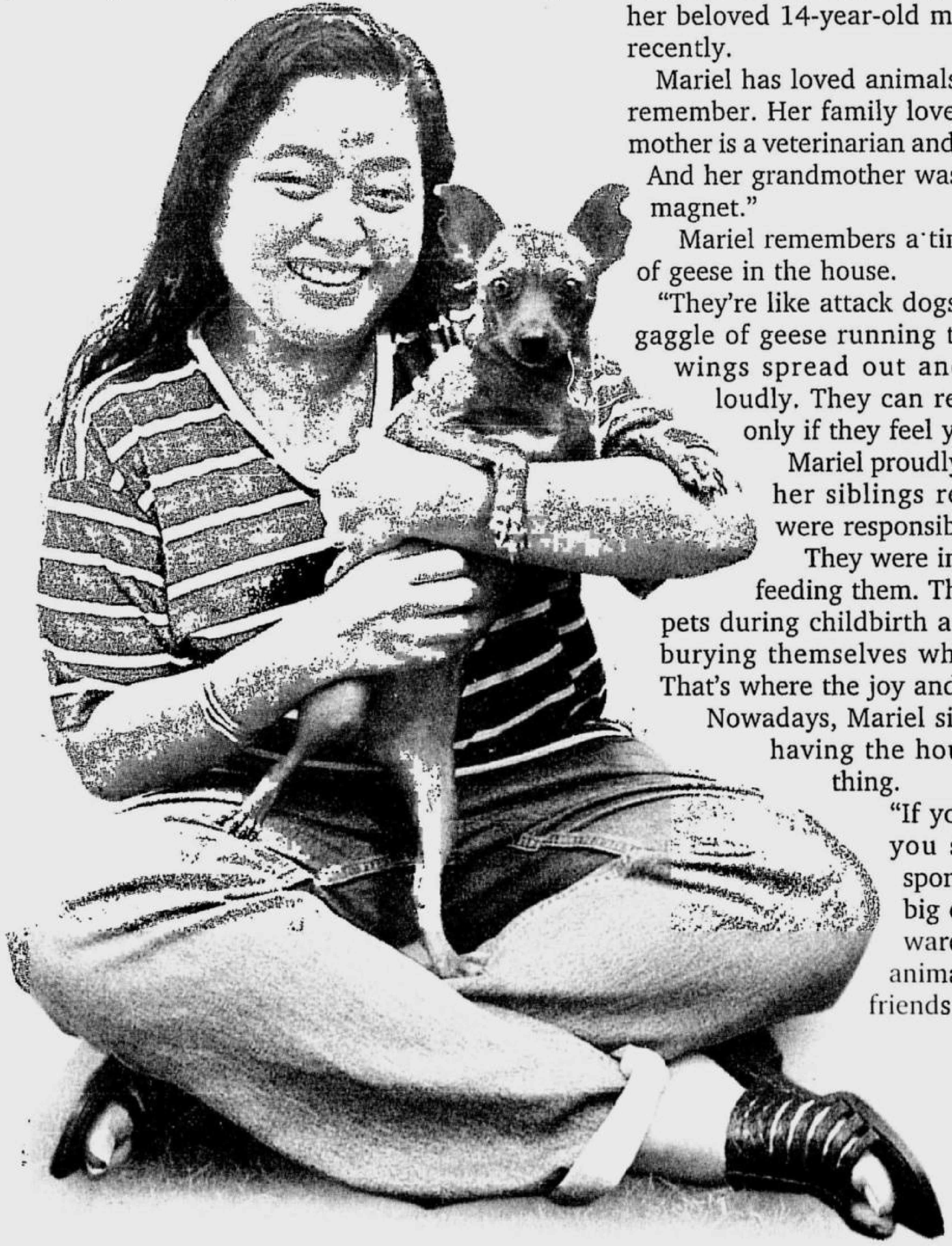
"They're like attack dogs," she says. "Imagine a gaggle of geese running towards you with their wings spread out and they're all honking loudly. They can really run you over. But only if they feel you're a threat."

Mariel proudly points out that she and her siblings really took care of and were responsible for their pets.

They were in charge of cleaning and feeding them. They assist their pregnant pets during childbirth and even have to do the burying themselves when a pet passes away. That's where the joy and heartache lies.

Nowadays, Mariel sighs, having pets means having the household help do everything.

"If you call it your pet, then you should be the one responsible," she stresses. It's a big commitment, but the rewards are great. For Mariel, animals are companions, best friends and even family.



MARIEL with Chili

BETOY JOHNSON

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ____________________.
He/She is ________ years old and is
my________________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)________________________;
2)________________________;
3)________________________;
4)________________________;
and
5)________________________.

My nominee lives at______________
________________________.
Give him/her a call at ____________
________________________.
or send him/her an e-mail
at________________________.
By the way, I'm________________
________________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is ________________
________________________.
You may call me at ______________
________________________.

¿ThinkathoN?
By Bong Barrameda

Spell Check

Time again to find out how good a spelling bug you are. In each number, pick the word you think is correctly spelled. A score of 9 or more is the mark of a very good speller.

1.	● baloon	● balloon	● balloun
2.	● committee	● comittee	● commitee
3.	● aparatus	● aparratus	● apparatus
4.	● license	● lisence	● lisense
5.	● satellite	● sattellite	● satelite
6.	● hippoppotamus	● hipopotamus	● hippopotamus
7.	● misille	● missile	● misile
8.	● ommited	● omitted	● ommitted
9.	● parallel	● parralel	● paralell
10.	● questionaire	● questionairre	● questionnaire
11.	● maintainance	● maintenance	● maintenanse
12.	● ophthalmologist	● opthalmologist	● ophtalmologist

Answers:

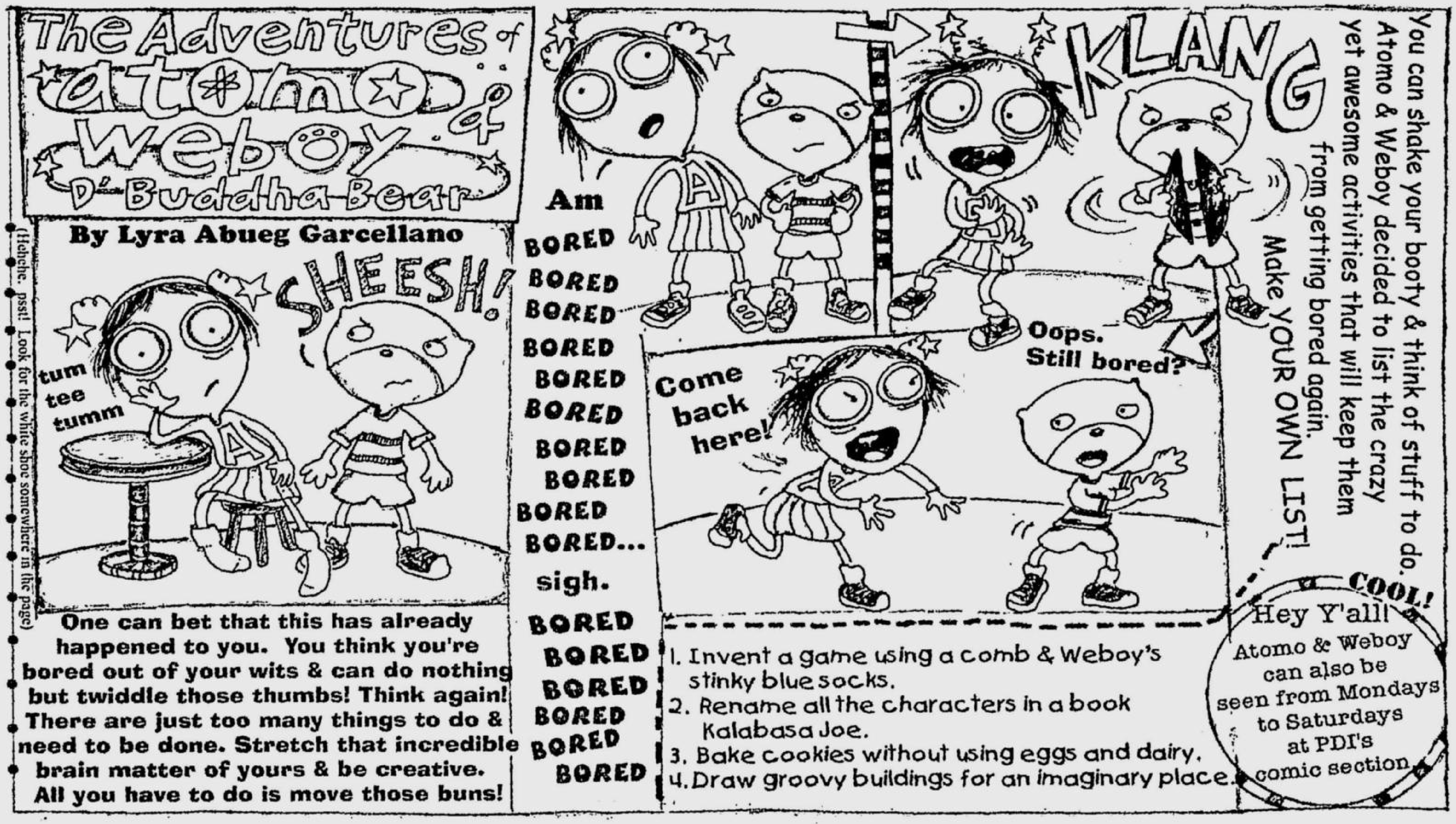
1. balloon
2. committee
3. apparatus
4. license
5. satellite
6. hippopotamus
7. missile
8. omitted
9. parallel
10. questionnaire
11. maintenance
12. ophthalmologist

Ratings:

superbrain!
11 - 12

excellent!
9 - 10

good!
7 - 8


The Adventures of atomo & weboy D'Buddha Bear
By Lyra Abueg Garcellano
(Hehehe. psst! Look for the white shoe somewhere in the page)
tum tee tumm
SHEESH!
One can bet that this has already happened to you. You think you're bored out of your wits & can do nothing but twiddle those thumbs! Think again! There are just too many things to do & need to be done. Stretch that incredible brain matter of yours & be creative. All you have to do is move those buns!
Am BORED BORED BORED BORED BORED BORED BORED BORED BORED BORED... sigh. BORED BORED BORED BORED BORED BORED
KLANG
Come back here!
Oops. Still bored?
You can shake your booty & think of stuff to do. Atomo & Weboy decided to list the crazy yet awesome activities that will keep them from getting bored again.
Make YOUR OWN LIST!
1. Invent a game using a comb & Weboy's stinky blue socks.
2. Rename all the characters in a book Kalabasa Joe.
3. Bake cookies without using eggs and dairy.
4. Draw groovy buildings for an imaginary place.
COOL!
Hey Y'all! Atomo & Weboy can also be seen from Mondays to Saturdays at PDI's comic section.

One Tale to Rule Them All

By Ma. Emille S. Dela Cruz
University of the Philippines Integrated School

I CONFESS. I am now officially a Lord of the Rings fan, one of the gazillions of people around the world (though not many in the Philippines) who have read the Tolkien texts and love it.

I had only just read "The Hobbit", but already I am hooked. I am now busily searching for that elusive "The Fellowship of the Ring" book in every bookstore in town, which, as some of you might know, is out of them.

I first heard of the series from my fifth-grade Social Studies teacher, who recommended the books to me, saying it was a really amazing story. I wasn't that interested at first, I was still too much of a Harry Potter fan then to take much notice of her wise words.

J.R.R.
TOLKIEN
THE SILMARILLION
The Epic History of the Elves in The Lord of the Rings
Edited by Christopher Tolkien

My interest was pricked yet again when I chanced upon some poems by Filipino poet Bliss Cua Lim, about the legendary Middle Earth, home to hobbits, elves, dwarves, wizards and men.

Finally, there was the movie, a splendid, extraordinary work of art that totally blew me away, that finally pushed me to get hold of the book itself.

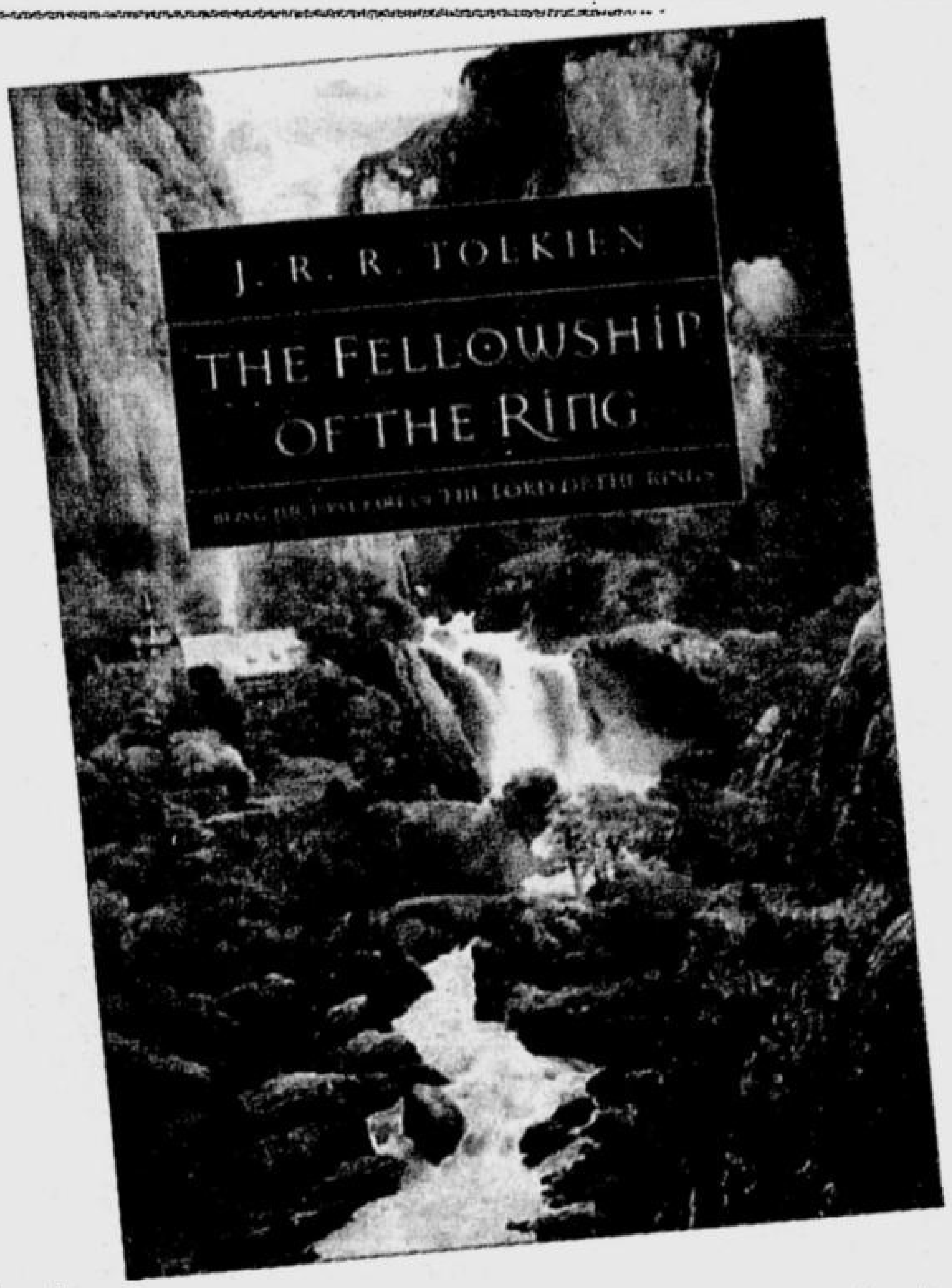
It was fantastic. "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings" totally swept me off my feet. "The Hobbit" is the prelude to the "Lord of the Rings" series, which is divided into three parts, "The Fellowship of the Ring" as the first part, "The Two Towers" as the second part, and "The Return of the King" as the third and final part, all written by the great J.R.R. (John Ronald Reuel) Tolkien (pronounced Tol-*keen*). The "Silmarillon," which actually comes before all four books, is a collection of the myths and legends that make up the world of Middle Earth.

THE HOBBIT
J. R. R. TOLKIEN

"The Hobbit" is about Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit who joins a band of dwarves in search for their stolen treasure. A hobbit is a little creature about half our size, smaller than dwarves, with shoeless furry feet (you will know more about them if you read "The Hobbit").

On the way, Bilbo finds a magic ring which can make its bearer invisible, but this is actually the One Ring of Power of the Dark Lord Sauron, who'll do anything to get it back.

"The Lord of the Rings", set 60 years after the events in "The Hobbit," picks up where the prelude leaves off, so to understand it better you had better read "The Hobbit" first. Here, Bilbo leaves the ring to his young cousin Frodo, who must journey to Mordor together with a courageous band of friends to destroy the evil ring. I don't want to spoil the rest for you so I won't say any more.


J. R. R. TOLKIEN
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING
BEING THE FIRST PART OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS

I love the story because it takes us to a world I've never been before. Sure, we have read stories with dwarves and dragons and wizards, but never to one which is obviously imaginary yet somehow fantastically real, that you lose yourself in it.

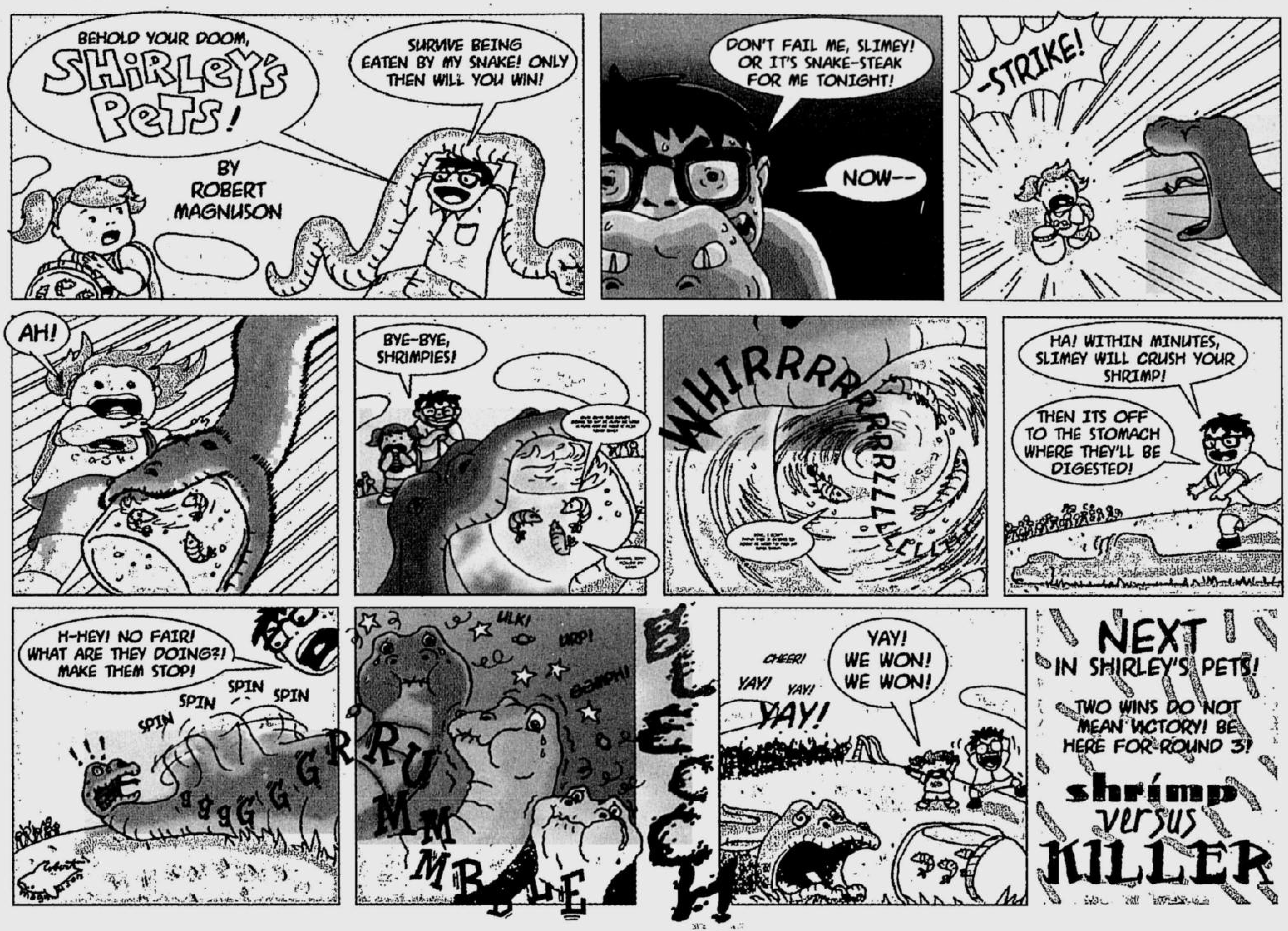
Tolkien writes so charmingly and convincingly that we are almost in Middle Earth itself. And the names! They roll beautifully on the tongue; Aragorn, Gandalf, Arwen, Pippin, Merry, Gimli, Galadriel, Legolas, Boromir.

J R R
TOLKIEN

The books are so spellbindingly fascinating that, sorry to all you Harry Potter and Star Wars fans, it kinds of makes you want to say: Harry who? Anakin who?

To all adventure fans and people who think Harry Potter is toonamby-pamby, these books are for you. Altogether it is an awesome piece of literature so exquisitely crafted that you would most certainly fall under its spell—just as I did.

THE RETURN OF THE KING


BEHOLD YOUR DOOM,
SHIRLEY'S PETS!
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
SURVIVE BEING EATEN BY MY SNAKE! ONLY THEN WILL YOU WIN!
DON'T FAIL ME, SLIMEY! OR IT'S SNAKE-STEAK FOR ME TONIGHT!
NOW--
-STRIKE!
AH!
BYE-BYE, SHRIMPIES!
WHIRRRRRRRRLLLLLLLLL
HA! WITHIN MINUTES, SLIMEY WILL CRUSH YOUR SHRIMP!
THEN ITS OFF TO THE STOMACH WHERE THEY'LL BE DIGESTED!
H-HEY! NO FAIR! WHAT ARE THEY DOING?! MAKE THEM STOP!
SPIN SPIN SPIN SPIN
!!!
GRRRUMMMBBLE
ULK!
URP!
BLECCH!
CHEER!
YAY!
YAY!
YAY!
YAY! WE WON! WE WON!
NEXT IN SHIRLEY'S PETS!
TWO WINS DO NOT MEAN VICTORY! BE HERE FOR ROUND 3!
shrimp versus KILLER

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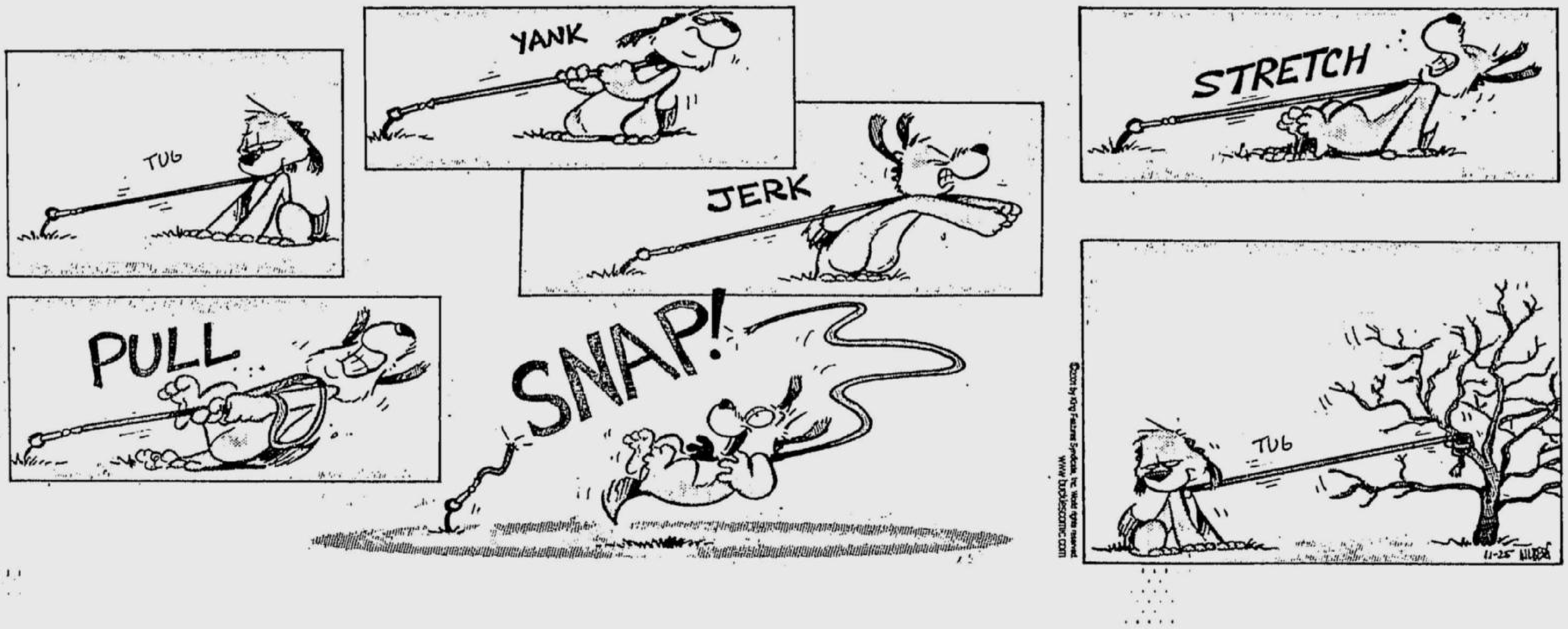
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


TUG
YANK
JERK
STRETCH
PULL
SNAP!
TUG
11-25 GILBERT

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